



Inside

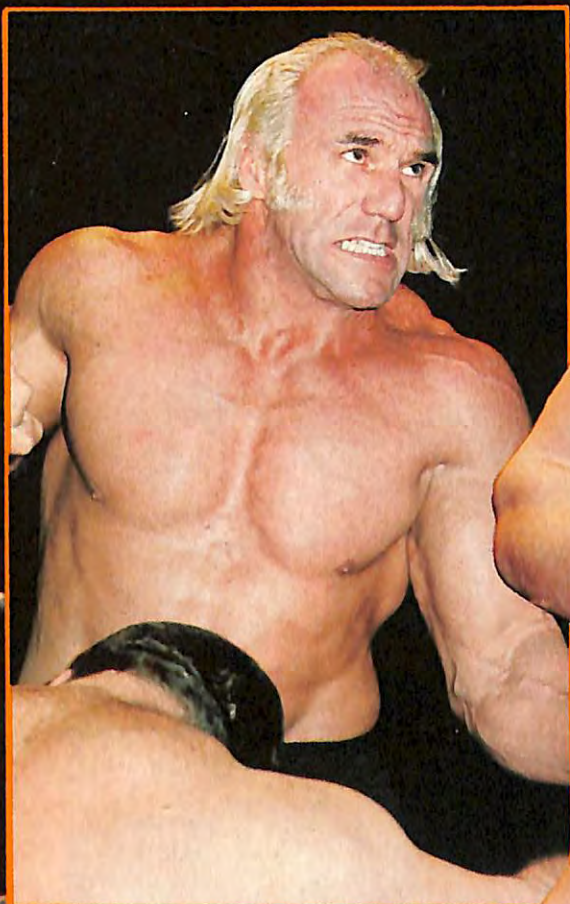
**WON'T ANYONE SAVE
RICKY STEAMBOAT FROM
DISASTER?**

April 1978

47727  \$1.00

Wrestling

**WHAT
BOB BACKLUND
CAN LEARN FROM
BRUNO
SAMMARTINO**



**The Fans Speak Out:
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
IS A DISGRACE
TO THE TITLE!**



How YOU can get in the best-shape of your life!

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So, why let yourself deteriorate?

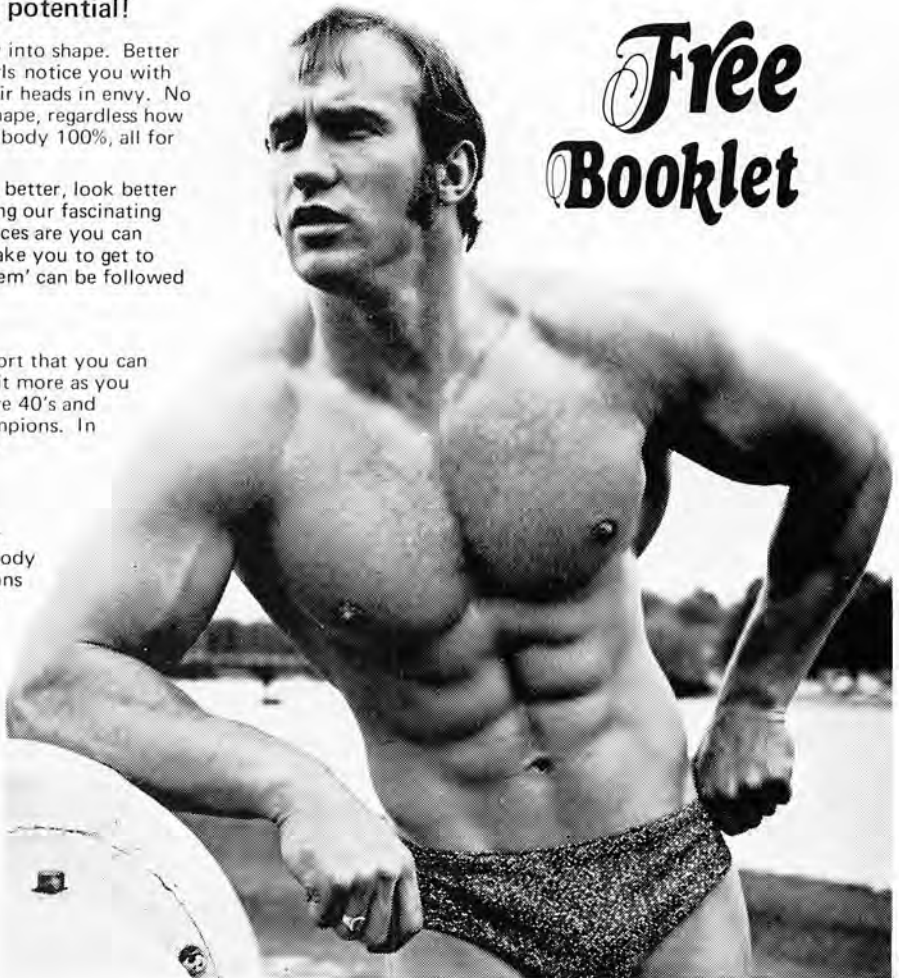
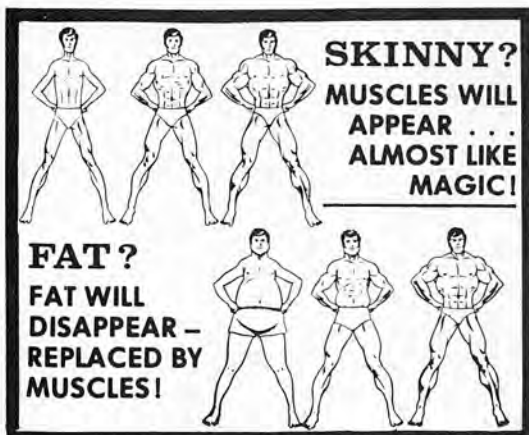
Face it, unless you do something about it, your body gets worse, day by day it gets uglier! Your body and your health are your most important possessions and they deserve your attention. With progressive body building you get better, day by day, with results you can see and feel!

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- ☐ \$10 monthly for 9 months
- ☐ \$15 monthly for 6 months
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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

Wrestling

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BEFORE

AFTER

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

You asked for it, you got it! As you may recall, in last month's column I told you how I acquired a copy of those top secret scouting reports that are filed after every bout. This month, by popular demand, I am revealing a few more of those very explosive documents. Incidentally, the date after the wrestlers' names is when the report was filed.

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM [Jan. 1978]: "This man has improved greatly since my last report [in March 1977--Ed. Note]. However, he still makes an occasional sloppy mistake. Those who say Graham is unbeatable are wrong. Still, he is a ferocious competitor and a very, very dangerous foe."

DICK SLATER [Feb. 1978]: "As of this report, Slater is still wrestling according to the rules. I must admit he is one helluva scientific grappler. His temper is still fiery, though, and I predict this new, fan favorite Slater won't be around for too much longer."

BILLY ROBINSON [Dec. 1977]: "What a pleasure! When it comes to scientific wrestling, this fine man has no peer. He is perhaps the best all-around grappler I've seen since the late Antonino Rocca retired."

CHIEF STRONGBOW [Jan. 1978]: "Like fine wine, this man continues to improve with age. According to an explosive rumor, the Grand Wizard has ordered Graham to avoid Strongbow at all costs."

RIC FLAIR [Feb. 1978]: "A despicable, cruel, vile human being. He is an ugly combination of a bully and a coward. However, he is also a great wrestler. Although I hate to admit this, I must: Ric Flair is the finest young wrestler I've seen in the last 20 years."

JACK BRISCO [Jan. 1978]: "This was Brisco's first match since his self-imposed three month layoff. Although his timing was a little off, he was still impressive. Jack needs a few more tune-up matches and then I predict he will once again be in the chase for the NWA belt."

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT



Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT lays bare these secrets for the first time! Do you want a bank account bursting at the seams with money? A love life that would make a sultan envious? Supreme power to crush your enemies and reward your friends? What would it be worth to you to utter a simple incantation that would cause any pain to vanish? Or say another, and immediately recover some lost object?

What would it be worth to you to fly through time and space, on astral wings, as Witches do... go wherever you wish... do whatever you wish... without being detected... watch the antics of others behind closed doors... hear private conversations... make time run forward or backward... read tomorrow's newspaper in a "black mirror"... find out what really happened in history... make your face old or young at will!

BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

Whatever you want or need, whatever frustration is bothering you, Witchcraft will help you. It is not evil—nor is it Black Magic. Like electricity, it is simply a power given by nature for the use of men, to make life easier.

You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

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Now! Let This Amazing Witch Book Bring You INFINITE WEALTH, FINE POSSESSIONS, A COMFORTABLE NEW HOME, FINANCIAL SECURITY, LOVE, CONTROL OVER OTHERS, And More—Easily And Automatically!

For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

By using these Witchcraft secrets, you too can change your life and gain health, wealth, someone to love—or anything else—surely, swiftly and automatically!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY JAR!**—You'll discover the secret of the Witch's Money Jar, a mysterious jar that fills with money—whenever you want or need it! All you need is some water, pennies, and an ordinary jar or bowl! You'll be amazed at the speed with which it fills with money—a seemingly endless supply of needed cash!

• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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- Influencing Others to Do Your Bidding!
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- The Technique of Silent Persuasion!
- Using Witchcraft to Find Friends!
- How to Find the Lover You Want!
- How to Bring Your Perfect Mate to You!
- How to Dominate Others!
- Witchcraft Power for Money!
- Witchcraft Power to Make You Irresistible to Others!
- Spells for Finding Lost Objects!
- How to Always Win with Luck Spells!
- More Power for Bigger Goals!
- Inhaling Cosmic Energy!
- Recharging Your Cosmic Batteries!
- Raising Your Vital Energy Level!
- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing **WITCH'S MONEY JAR**—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the **MONEY MAGNET SPELL** over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the **MONEY SPELL**. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

YOU CAN HEAL YOURSELF AS WITCHES DO!

Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the **MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT**, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror! You'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by and about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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FAIRGROUNDS
RICHMOND

A MARILLO, TEXAS — Passing through the Lone Star State on Route 66, which is the shortest way through Texas, this is the only major city you have to drive through. And when one is in Amarillo, there is usually only one thing to do—visit the Funk family ranch. Anyone is welcome. Come on in and make yourself at home. That's just what I did.

With Terry off to make a movie in California (poor fellow), only Dory remained at the ranch. He's been carrying a double load, filling in for his brother when necessary. I was lucky to be passing through here when I did. Dory was on one of his rare breaks, and I had a

more of a public figure, but he doesn't do a thing without Dory's permission. Indeed, it has often been said that Dory is, for all intents and purposes, Terry's manager. It can be said for certain that Dory has a considerable influence in Terry's career.

"Of course I tell Terry what he should be doing," Dory told me. "And he tells me what I should be doing. Why not? We're brothers. We watch each other very closely. We care. We've always looked out for each other, ever since we were kids. Why should it be any different when we're adults?"

"If I had my way, the press would stop making so much fuss



Dory Funk Jr. traps Chavo Guerrero in a brutal headlock. It was Dory's brilliant battling technique that made the young Mexican realize how tough it is to make it in the professional ranks. From this bout on, Chavo was a respected and much wiser young grappler.

chance to learn a little more about him than I had known before.

Many fans forgot that Dory was the first member of the Funk family to win a world title. He held the NWA belt for almost four years, ultimately losing it to Harley Race. Years later, his brother Terry would suffer a similar fate.

Dory is not a talker; he makes his presence known in other ways. Dory is the one who controls what happens in the Funk family. Don't ever think otherwise. Terry may be

about my influence on Terry. I do what I think best. And I haven't noticed my brother complaining. That should count for something."

All right. I was willing to accept that. After all, it seemed like a useless subject to pursue. Everyone else had covered it before. I wanted to know more about what Dory was doing for himself these days.

"I've been around. I do my part. Sometimes I wrestle an interesting opponent. Sometimes I find my

(Continued on page 44)

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

WHEN HE WALKS into an arena, up to 25,000 people hate his guts. One may wield the knife or clutch the gun that will end his life. This description applies to any number of men. Some people call them rule-breakers, villains. I call them heroes.

Ken Patera is one of these men. Because he wrestles as he wants to and not as the crowds command, he is despised by fans everywhere. He lives with the fear some nut will someday end his life. It's happened before. It will happen again.

"I don't think about it," Ken claims. "I just go about my



Ken Patera is a man the fans should respect—and not try to attack.

business. That way it doesn't have any effect on me. Sure, I get death threats. So do you, Dan. We both learn to live with them."

Still, there is a moment when you read a letter from someone who promises to shoot you down like a dog, when a cold chill tingles your spine. Maybe this one isn't just talking. It's not hard to buy a rifle, aim, pull the trigger, and send that missile of death speeding to its target.

"If my time comes," Patera believes, "my times comes. Nothing I can do about it. There's danger everywhere. A car might run me over. My plane might crash. There are a million ways to die. You've got to face each one like a man.

"I don't give anyone mercy. I expect none in return. Wrestling fans aren't bright, but they're not crazies, either. They'll boo and throw paper cups, but they won't attack. The wackos who write letters aren't wrestling fans. They're the sickies who threaten the life of anyone famous. The get their jollies writing, not doing."

Other wrestlers feel the same way. Men who are slandered as rulebreakers live with the threat of death ever present. The fans can't appreciate this kind of courage. It takes intelligence and sensitivity to do that.

Of course, wrestlers' lives are also at stake inside the ring. So-called rulebreakers are



No matter what the consequences, big Blackjack Mulligan will not change.

watched very closely by referees, while the cowardly scientific flunkies are allowed to do anything. That's why the careers of scientific wrestlers last so much longer than their "rulebreaking" counterparts. The popular guys are given every break. That's the way the fans want it, so that's the way it is.

"It's much easier going with the fans," Blackjack Mulligan says, "but that's not what's important. When I first became a wrestler, there were certain beliefs I lived by. Some things can't be changed because they're unpopular. I'm right. The fans are wrong. I'm willing to pay for my beliefs. I'm not afraid of anyone, so let them do their worst. Every wrestler in the world knows where to find me."

(Continued on page 46)

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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Randy
Gordon**



IT APPEARS I have become embroiled in quite a controversy. It involves Ken Patera. Allow me to explain.

A few months ago, CBS television held a series of events which it called "The World's Strongest Man Competition." In it were indeed the strongest men on the face of the Earth. Among the competitors were former Mr. Universe Lou Ferrigno, Olympic weightlifter (and eventual winner of the tournament) Bruce Wilhelm, professional football player Bob Young, body builder Frankie Columbo, and a professional wrestler by the name of Ken Patera.

All of you know how I feel about Patera. He stands for all the things I think are wrong with professional wrestling. He is a rulebreaker's rulebreaker.

But as much as Patera turns my stomach, I must be honest and tell it like it really is—something I always do anyway. In my opinion, Ken Patera is the strongest man in the world. In fact, as I exclusively disclosed to you months ago, Ken probably would have won the CBS tournament had it not been for me interfering, bothering, and annoying him throughout the competition.

I could have kept my underhanded activities to myself. Nobody would have suspected a thing. However, at the time, I thought that keeping Ken from winning the competition was such a clever thing on my part, that I decided to share it with you, the greatest sports fans in the world.

In line with my thinking, some letters came in, congratulating

(Continued on page 48)

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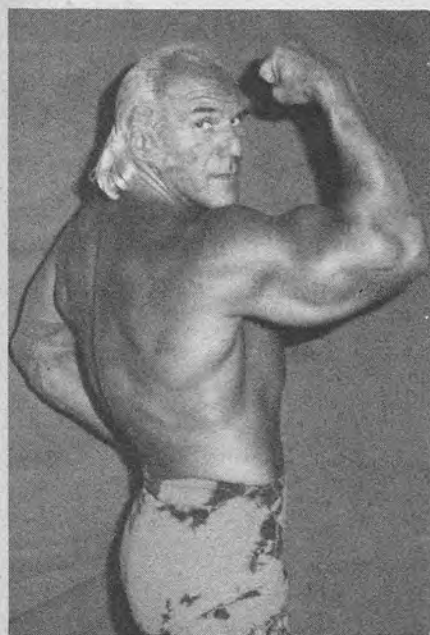
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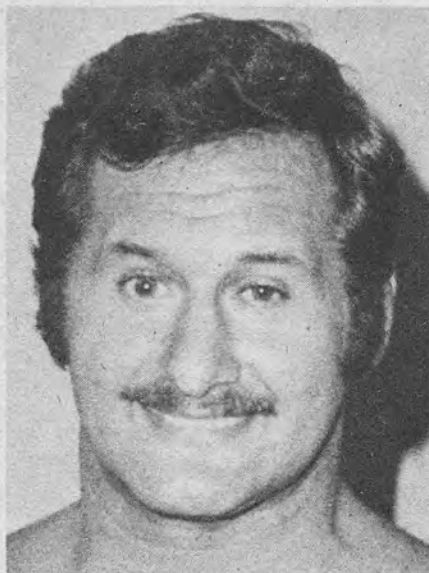
If technicalities hadn't been in the way, MIL MASCARAS would have been crowned the new WWF champion after his brilliant victory over champion SUPERSTAR GRAHAM. Their match was halted by the referee. Mil opened a gash on Graham's forehead and the champion began bleeding profusely. The sensational Mexican star completely outwrestled, out-



MIL MASCARAS



**SUPERSTAR
BILLY GRAHAM**



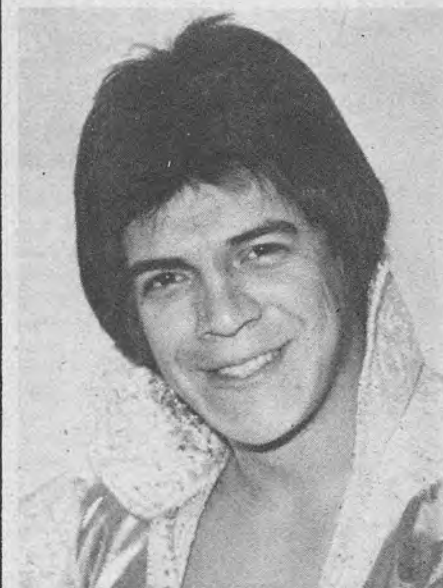
BORIS MALENKO

smarted, and outclassed Graham during the entire match. In our opinion, Mascaras proved he deserves to be champion of the WWF.

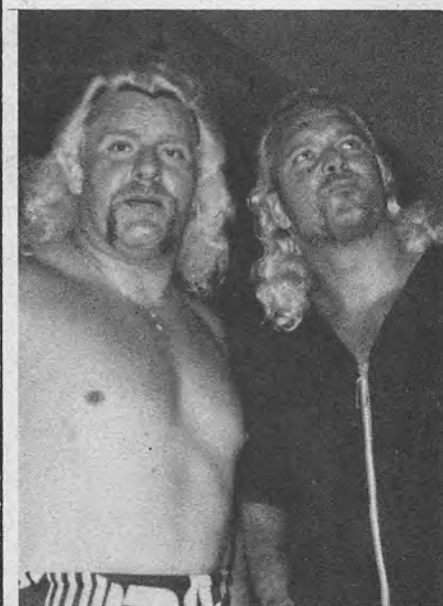
Three cheers to the Mid-Atlantic wrestling commission. It first gave manager BORIS MALENKO repeated warnings to stop interfering in matches on behalf of MASKED SUPERSTAR. The



MASKED SUPERSTAR



HECTOR GUERRERO



THE VALIANT BROTHERS

commission then suspended him for violating their order . . . The VALIANT BROTHERS say they are the United States tag team champions. "We are undefeated in the U.S.," says Handsome Jim. "The people should be proud to

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

have us as their champion," adds Luscious John . . . Young **HECTOR GUERRERO** won the annual Los Angeles battle royal and all the prize money which goes along with it.

In a two-ring battle royal that took place in Houston, Texas, **ANDRE THE GIANT** took the victory in one ring while **ROCKY JOHNSON** won in the other. According to the rules, Rocky and Andre, two very close friends, had to wrestle each other for the prize money. After several minutes of fast and furious scientific wrestling, Andre walked off with the money and the glory.

RIC FLAIR claims he had little trouble with former NWA champion **DORY FUNK JR.** during their recent clash in St. Louis, Missouri. "The guy was putty in my hands," boasts Ric. "I could have finished him off in less than two minutes. However, I wanted to let the ticket buying public get their money's worth so they could see just how great I really am." . . . By virtue of a controversial win over **RICK STEAMBOAT**, **BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** is the newly crowned U.S. Champion . . . **PEDRO MORALES** and **CHAVO GUERRERO** are planning to invade Texas as a tag team.

SPIROS ARION demands to be billed as "The Greek God" . . . **DICK MURDOCH** claims NWA champion **HARLEY RACE** is avoiding his ultimate challenge—wrestling Dick Murdoch! . . . **JACQUES GOULET** swears he holds five clear-cut victories over **MR. WRESTLING II** . . . **GREG VALENTINE** is doubling his schedule in order to wrestle more



ANDRE THE GIANT

single bouts. Greg has been defending his half of the Mid-Atlantic tag team belt along with partner **RIC FLAIR**, and he feels he is "getting stale in single matches. I don't want to get rusty, so I am now going to wrestle individul matches at least three



times a week."

DEAN HO is slated to wrestle in Los Angeles . . . **PAT PATTERSON** is now wrestling in the AWA. He has a red-hot feud going with **JIM BRUNZELL**. By



PAT PATTERSON



**CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
AND PETER MAIVIA**

the way, Patterson is now teaming with **RAY STEVENS** . . . **CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW** and **PETER MAIVIA** had thought of breaking up their partnership, but now have decided otherwise. "We cannot stand to see **MR. FUJI** and **PROFESSOR TANAKA** wearing the WWF tag team belts," says

(Continued on page 49)

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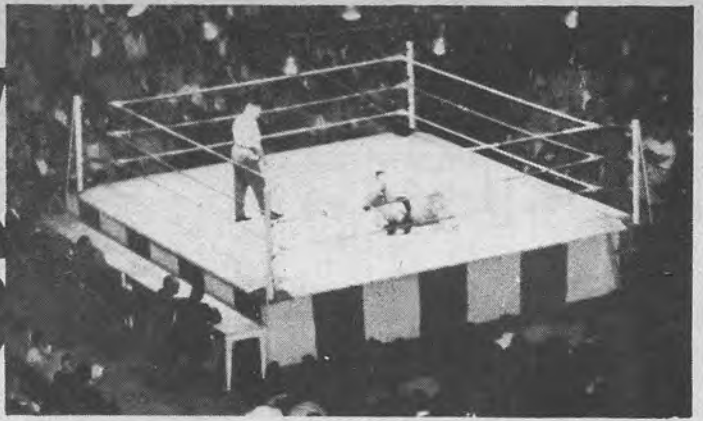
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SINCERELY YOURS

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Reader Teddy Moustakis feels that Superstar Graham (above, signing an autograph on a young lady's arm) is a good champion in the WWWF and if he does lose to Bob Backlund (below) the Federation would be in trouble.



BAD IDEA

I read your story "Superstar Graham vs. Bob Backlund: INSIDE WRESTLING'S \$100,000 Gamble" (February 1978).

I'm forced to disagree with you. The WWWF has never been as popular as it is now with

Graham as champion. If, because of the challenge, Graham does lose the belt to Backlund, I think the federation will lose a lot of fans.

HOLD TIGHT, BILLY!

TEDDY MOUSTAKIS
Astoria, N.Y.

A WELCOME ADDITION

Matt Brock's "Plain Speaking" is by far one of the best columns I have read in a long time.

Brock is honest, blunt, and impartial. He really seems to mince no words, just say everything simply. It is refreshing to come across.

You have really made your

magazine even better than before by acquiring Matt Brock.

Keep up the good work.

TRACIE PAONESSA
Brooklyn, N.Y.

A DISAGREEMENT

After reading Dan Shocket's "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" (February 1978), I was disgusted.

This time Shocket has gone too far. He has the nerve to insult in print the world's greatest wrestler, Bruno Sammartino. It's full of lies.

Bruno's the greatest, but he doesn't want to admit it. I wish someone would knock some sense into Shocket's head, someone like Bruno.

I know everyone has a right to their own opinions, but this time he's really gone too far.

JOHN SANTANY

Yorktown Heights, Penn.

POINT WELL TAKEN

I've been a fan of Randy Gordon and "Behind the Dressing Room Door" since the very first issue. However, I think he went too far by rattling Ken Patera during the "World's Strongest Man" contest. His February column, where he recounts doing this, is the only one I didn't like.

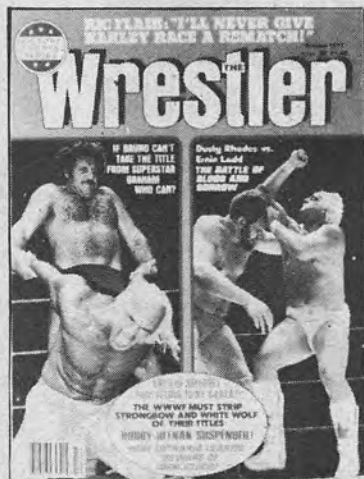
If Patera had won, it would have been great for wrestling. Randy should have realized this

(Continued on page 50)

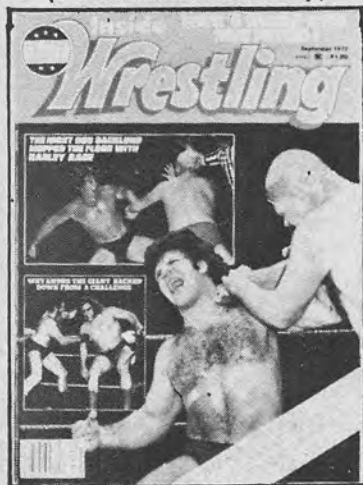
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

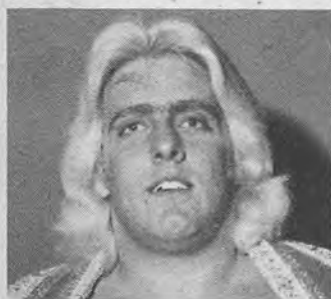


TONY PARISI

This popular Italian star has brought his brand of wrestling science to Detroit and Toronto. Tony, who was a co-holder of the WWWF tag team title a while back, wrestles mainly as a single now. "I decided it's now or never for me," Tony reports. "If I don't win a singles title in the next few years, I know I never will."

IVAN PUTSKI

Ivan Putski, who has been electrifying Northeastern wrestling audiences with his "Polish Power," has decided to expand his grappling horizons. Putski is now a regular on the Florida circuit. If his first few matches were any indication, Putski could well become a fixture in the Sunshine State.



RIC FLAIR

This most hated of young wrestlers continues to wrestle regularly in the Mid-Atlantic region. "However," Ric tells us, "the moron fans of Florida, Georgia, Texas, and Missouri can expect a visit from me in the near future. Its about time these lowlifes got to see some greatness!" We hope Mr. Flair does not expect to receive a hero's welcome.

VICTOR RIVERA

The saddest story of this year concerns Victor Rivera. Perhaps one of the finest scientific stars in history, Rivera has recently turned his back on the fans who love him in Southern California. We can only hope Victor will see the error of his ways and return to wrestling according to the rules. We must all pray for the dignity that was once Victor Rivera. □



INSIDE WRESTLING

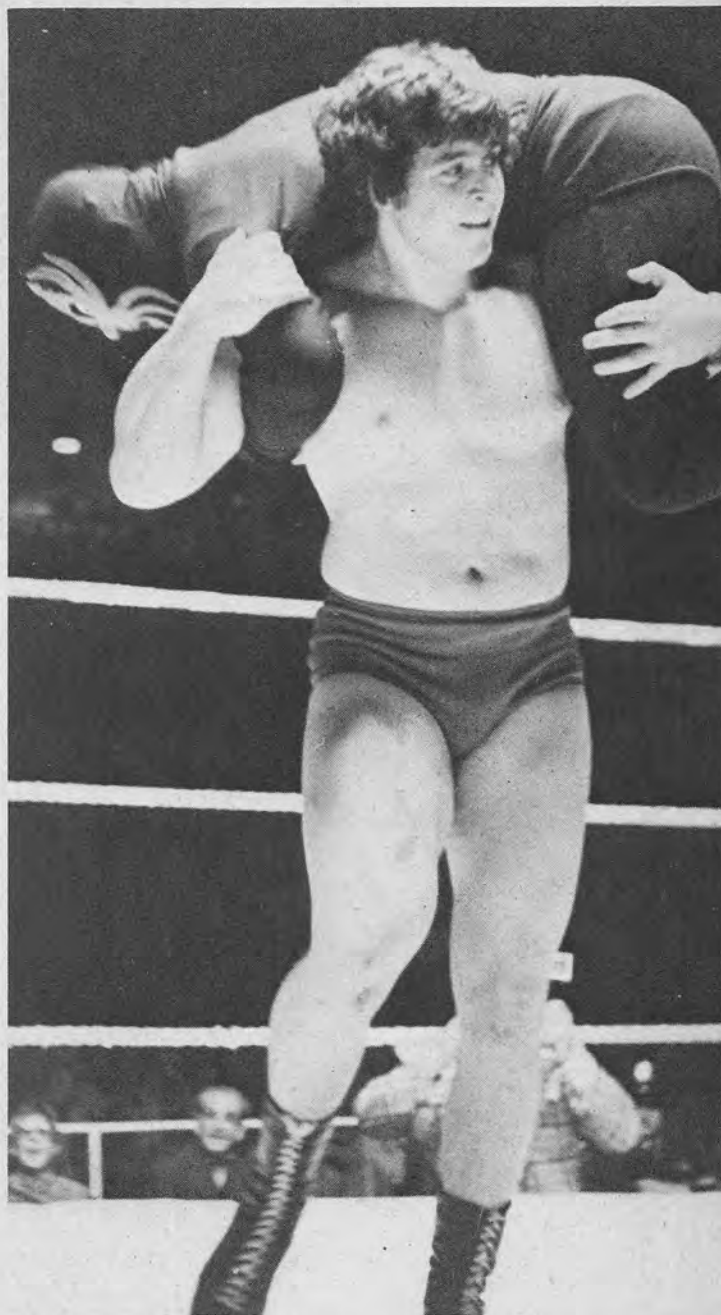
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CAPSULE PROFILE

DINO BRAVO



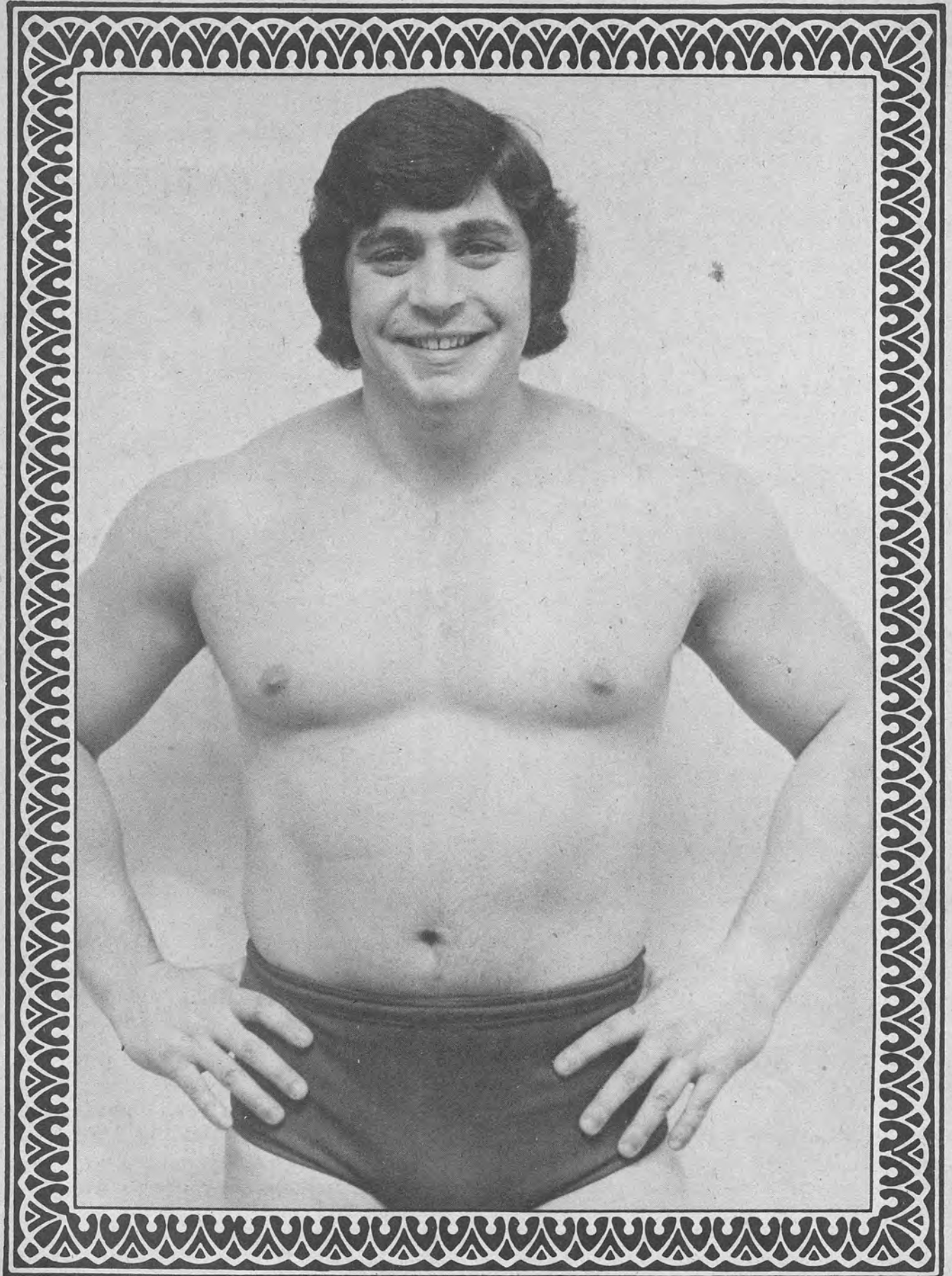
CONSIDERING THE SHORT time he has been in the sport, he has made an exceptionally important impact . . . Watching him in action is a beautiful sight to behold . . . His grace, his power, and his amazing scientific ability have dazzled many fans . . . He is extremely well liked by the fans (*"Without the fans, where would I be? They help me win my matches."*) . . . Although he is quite powerful, speed is his major asset . . . He tries to always keep full control of himself, rarely letting his temper get in the way of his judgement (*"I want to make sure I have everything going my way in a match. In order to do this, I*



simply cannot let myself lose control of my emotions.") . . . He usually sticks to a planned method of operation, but he can improvise strategies if the need arises . . . With his wide range of maneuvers, he can easily out-think his opponents (*"I*

like to keep them guessing what I'll do next. That way, they remain confused, enabling me to win.") . . . Many experts agree that Dino Bravo is well on his way to a championship, for this young man certainly has the ability to win a major title. □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



DINO BRAVO

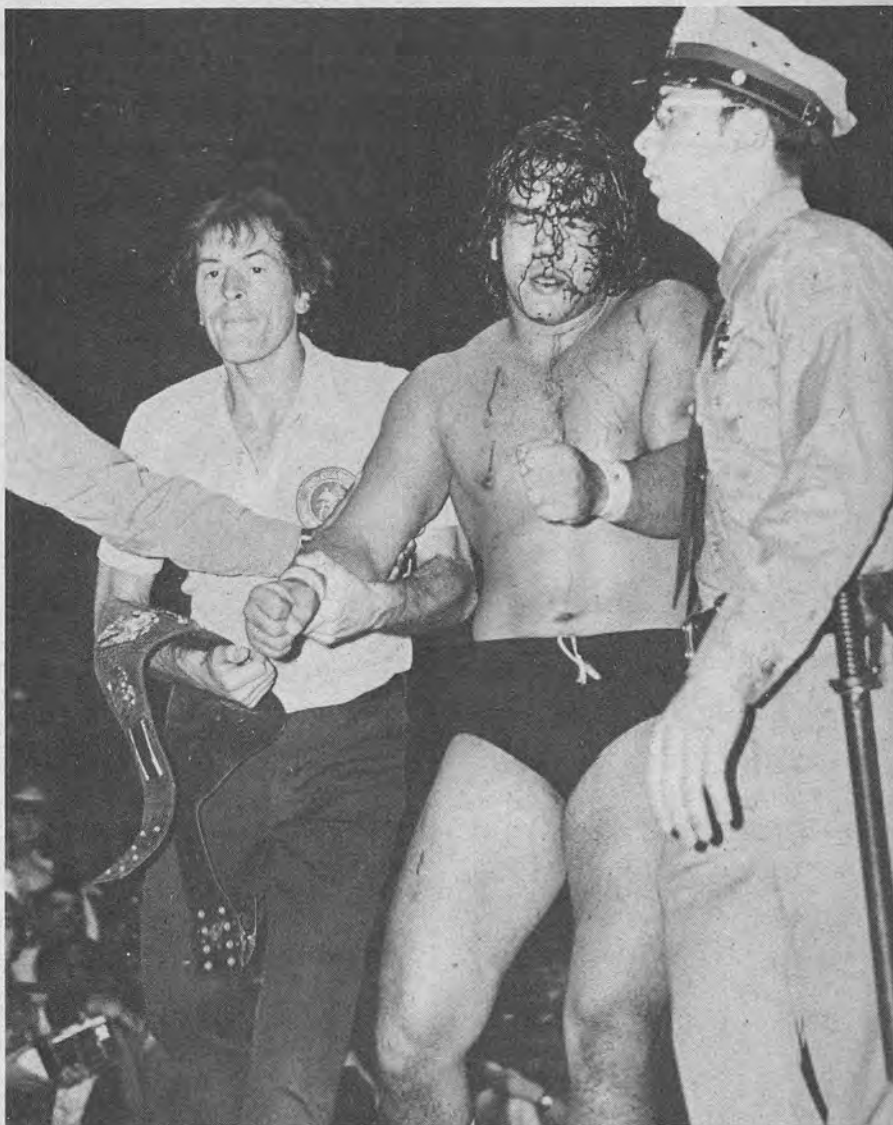
No one doubts Rick Steamboat's greatness. But it takes experience to survive the roughest mat battles, knowledge the young man hasn't yet had time to learn. His ignorance could have tragic consequences!

After a brutal match against Blackjack Mulligan, a bloody and dazed Rick Steamboat is helped back to his dressing room. Can Rick survive much more of this?

PROMOTERS GIVE HIM the toughest opponents, friends wish him luck, fans cheer him on. If a man takes too many risks, sooner or later he has to fail. Rick Steamboat is being cheered as he takes on risks no young grappler should have to endure. Why doesn't someone stop him?

The man's career is in danger. It's almost impossible for him to escape a major injury. He has already made enemies of many notorious rulebreakers, most notably Ric Flair and Blackjack Mulligan. Either man could cripple an opponent and brag about it afterwards. Steamboat seems to take on these men without the slightest thought to the consequences. No one can survive forever with this kind of attitude.

Rick has many friends, but none that seem willing to put a stop to his collision course with doom. There is no wiser, more cautious, more level-headed person willing to instruct this



WON'T ANYONE SAVE RICKY STEAMBOAT FROM DISASTER?

young star. If one sees Rick with promoters and friends, all seems right with the world.

With fans, it's the same way.

They cheer Steamboat's actions without any consideration of what is happening. All they care about is Rick challenging the

men they hate. Doesn't anyone realize heroes die young?

Promoters, of course, are

(Continued on page 52)

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

UNIONDALE, N.Y.

By Dave Atkinson



**GORILLA MONSOON
vs.
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**



Gorilla Monsoon and Superstar Billy Graham battled for the WWWF title in a ferocious encounter at the Nassau Coliseum. Graham retained his gold belt when the 401-pound Monsoon was counted out of the ring.

OTHER BOUTS: New York's first Battle Royal saw Gorilla Monsoon win. The final man eliminated by Monsoon was Toru Tanaka... Chief Peter Maivia was too quick for his bigger opponent, Butcher Vachon.

MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

By Barry Rose



**ROCKY JOHNSON
vs.
RIC FLAIR**



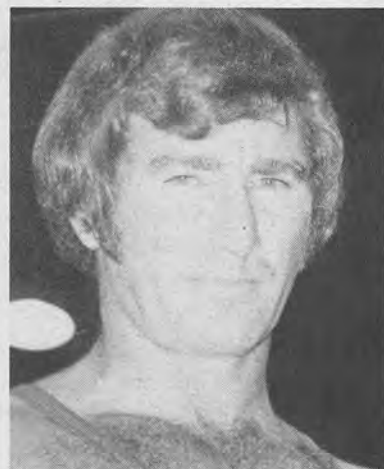
Rocky Johnson once again proved his greatness by coming out on top over Ric Flair. The notorious Flair was unable to get back in the ring before being counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Superstar Billy Graham was disqualified against Dusty Rhodes... Rick Steamboat conquered Bill White... Jack and Jerry Brisco overcame Bob Roop and Bob Orton Jr.

Dec 11, 1977

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

By Tim Hart



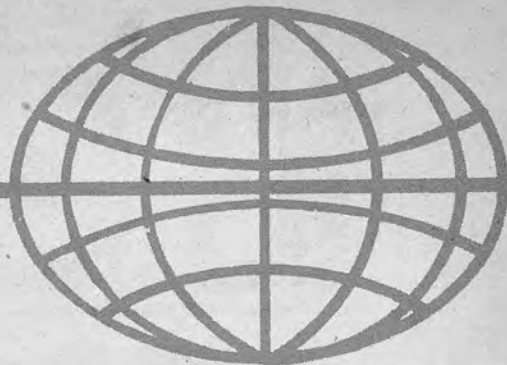
**BOB ARMSTRONG
vs.
HARLEY RACE**



Bob Armstrong defeated Harley Race but didn't win Race's NWA title. The victory came by disqualification when Race's friend rushed into the ring to help the champion, causing Harley to be disqualified for outside interference.

OTHER BOUTS: Joe LeDuc and Mongolian Stomper brawled to a draw... (Bob Orton Jr. and Ron Garvin couldn't conquer Robert Fuller and Tony Charles... Norvell Austin outlasted Mike Pappas.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



MACON, GA.

By Kim Lamberth



DUSTY RHODES
vs.
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



Dusty Rhodes once again proved his greatness by earning a brutal victory over Abdullah the Butcher. As is usual with Abdullah, the match ended on a disqualification.

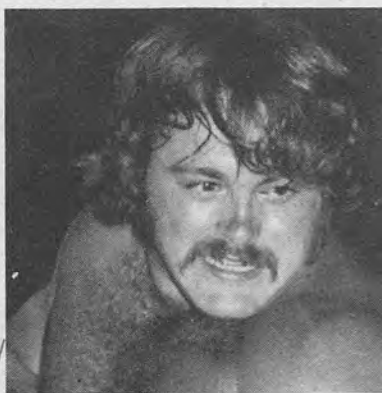
OTHER BOUTS: The Georgia tag team champions, Mr. Wrestling II and Dick Slater, topped the awesome duo of Ole Anderson and Stan Hansen. Tommy Rich proved too tough for the Invader.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

By Randy Nicks



BOB ROOP
vs.
KEVIN SULLIVAN

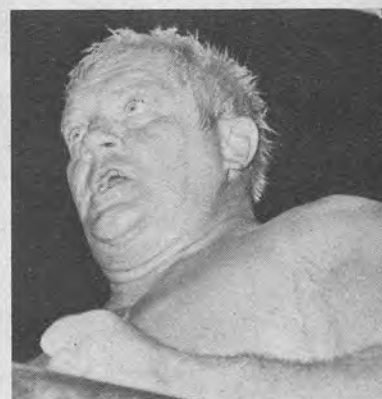


Bob Roop managed to hold onto his U.S. title against the tough challenge of Kevin Sullivan. It looked like Kevin might be victorious until Sullivan was disqualified for using a foreign object.

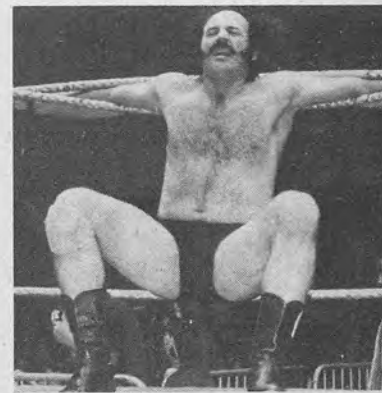
OTHER BOUTS: Ray Stevens used his veteran cunning to turn back the always dangerous Alexi Smirnoff. Haystacks Calhoun and Dean Ho were a great tag team in their victory over the Von Steigers.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

By Barry T. Basham



BRUISER
vs.
BLACKJACK LANZA



Fans delighted in the furious encounter between Bruiser and Blackjack Lanza. The best-of-three-falls match lasted only one fall when Lanza couldn't come out for the second.

OTHER BOUTS: Dick Slater retained his Missouri State Championship against Rocky Johnson. Jan Nelson took on and defeated two opponents consecutively, first Seki and then John Valiant. □

Dec 9, 1977

HOTSEAT

BRUISER: "I'VE SEEN 'EM ALL COME AND GO, BUT I'M STILL HERE!"

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY
MATT BROCK

HIS CAREER SPANS three decades. Once the most feared of rulebreakers, banned in many states, he is now popular with fans all over the world. Young hopefuls have become veterans and retired while he remains at the top of his profession. For many people, he is professional wrestling. He is Bruiser.

Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat."

A: Welcome back yourself. I guess they can't keep either of us away from the sport for long. You know, when I found out you stopped writing, it was the first time I ever really felt old. But now I guess both of us are going to go on forever.

Q: I get tired worrying about that. But speaking about forever, have you wondered why you seem to be the one man to survive while everyone else

“
There's no challenge I won't take. But I'm terrified to even consider there might be an end to this career. Maybe that's what keeps me going. Age may really be only in the mind.
”

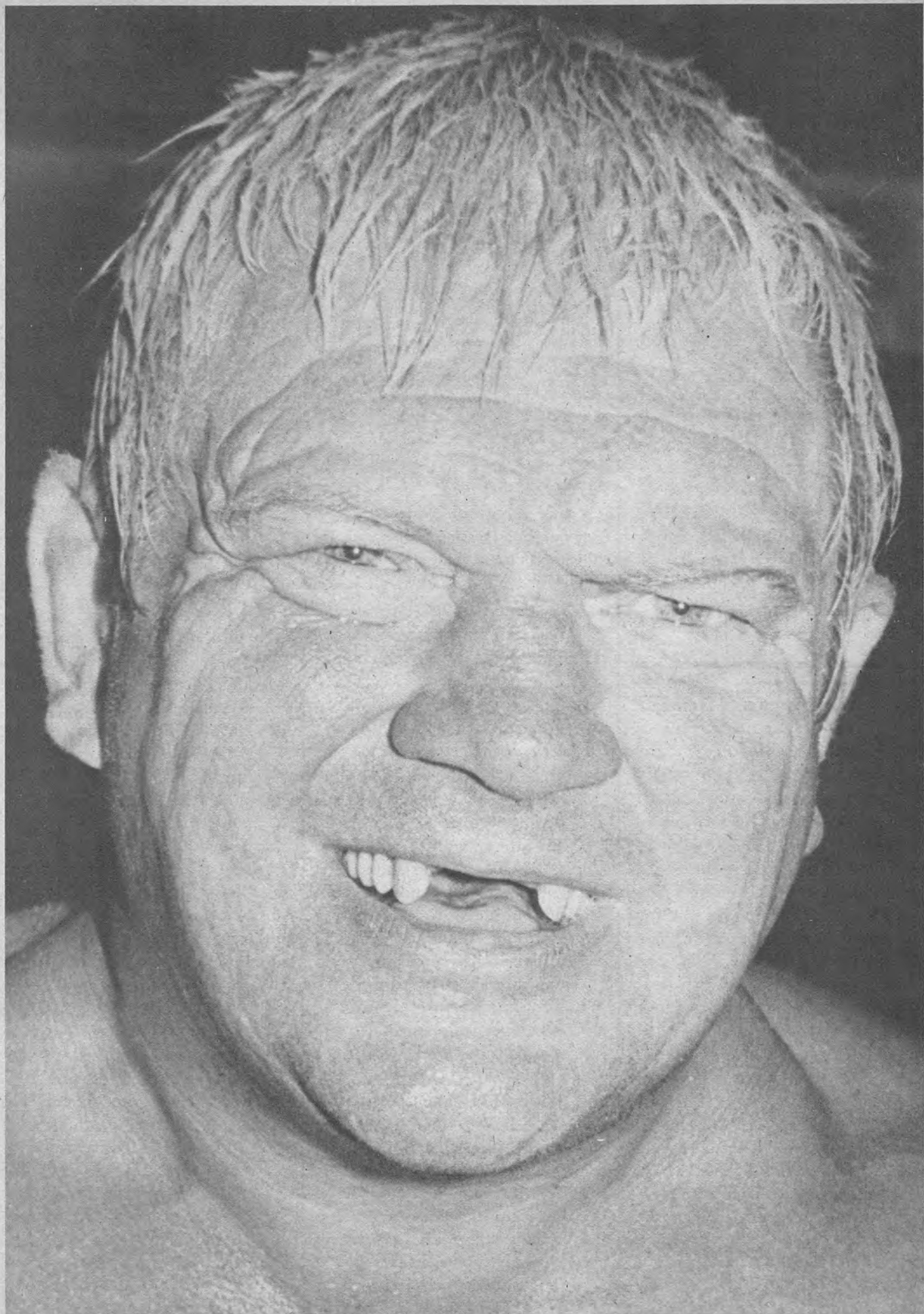
ages into some other profession?

A: I'm afraid to think about it. Strange, isn't it? There isn't a

man alive who scares me. There's no challenge I won't take. But I'm terrified to even consider there might be an end to this career. Maybe that's what keeps me going. Age may really be only in the mind.

Q: I also feel it in my legs, and breath, and the agony of getting up before noon. But I've watched you for more years than I'll admit to here, and you haven't lost anything at all. Except for being more fluid, your style hasn't changed much since the first day.

A: Sure it has. But what I've lost—and I don't feel it's much—I've picked up in





**“
It takes too much energy
to hate people all the time.
Hating only the guy in the
ring makes life a lot easier.
”**

experience. In the beginning, I used to power my way out of everything. If there's any miracle in my career, it's that I survived that stupidity. Now I use my brains. It's a whole lot easier. Look, I know more than anyone else in this sport. So long as I can think my way out of any situation, nothing can stop me. Guys retire when something inside them says they can't escape the next hold. No little voice has ever told me that.

Q: Never?

A: Not long enough to bother listening to it.

Q: Who would have thought 20 years ago we'd be discussing wrestling intelligence? You were using your brains then, but you'd burn in hell before admitting it.

A: It takes too much energy to hate people all the time. Hating only the guy in the ring



Early in his career Bruiser, better known as the "One Man Riot Squad," wrecks the entire ringside area of the arena after a disqualification verdict that did not sit too well with him.

makes life a lot easier.

Q: It also makes leaving arenas a lot easier.

A: One little riot in Madison Square Garden and you can't seem to forget it.

Q: Guadalcanal was just one little battle. Thousands of people were after your scalp, and they seemed willing to settle for a substitute. The cops were surrounding you, but nobody was bothering about me. When some maniac screamed, 'He just came from Bruiser's dressing room!' My life passed before my eyes.

A: Whatever happened to the blonde you were with that night?

Q: You would remember that.

A: I wish I remembered her phone number.

Q: She's probably a grandmother by now, which would serve her right. It seems she became slightly upset about walking through lynch mobs with a substitute victim. After calling me some names her grand-

children don't suspect she knows, the doll turned around and headed down Eighth Avenue. Never saw her again.

A: Never? She told me she was going to call and try to make up.

Q: When did you see her?

A: Isn't this interview supposed to be about wrestling?

Q: Isn't there supposed to be honor among thieves?

A: Nope.

Q: Getting back to the interview, Judas, you've pretty much done it all, including the blonde. Are there any more challenges you feel must be conquered before you're finally satisfied?

A: Every time some young kid comes up who's just a little bit different, I've got to get him. Each match is a new challenge. You've never done it all, gotten all the glory. There's always someone new, someone who thinks he can knock you off. So you've got to take him on, prove he's



"Fan Favorite" Bruiser tortures Jimmy Valiant (above). In his rulebreaking heyday (below) Bruiser chokes the life from the popular Bobo Brazil. Today, they are dear friends.



Rookie Don Curtis gets a chair in the midsection courtesy of Bruiser back in the late 1950s.

wrong. I'll never feel my career is completed, that I've done it all.

Q: Earlier, we lightly discussed why you changed from being a hated rulebreaker to a fan favorite. Let's consider the question seriously.

A: I wasn't kidding. It's tough to hate everyone. Now if I have something extra, it's the cheers of fans. You should know enough to know that's not some corny nonsense. The noise pumps adrenalin though your body, makes you do more than you ever thought possible. It's funny. If I met people in the crowd one by one, there are probably many I wouldn't bother crossing the street for. Hell, out of 10,000 people, there have to be some real losers. But put them in a crowd, let their voices mingle, and I risk my life for them. You figure it out. I'm just thankful for what it does for me.

Q: We've been around long enough to know that you take anything that helps, no questions asked.

Q: To a point. I'm glad to see you've cut down on the booze.

Q: It no longer helped.

A: It never helped, buddy. Only you had to find that out for yourself.

Q: What have you found out for yourself?

A: I found I can do what I want if I want it bad enough. A man might beat me, but he can't conquer me. If you don't learn from mistakes, you're an idiot. Take each day one at a time, and don't think about tomorrow. And as Satchel Page said, "Don't look back, they may be gaining on you."

Q: Is there one match that you consider your best?

A: No. It's my career that's important, what I've done over a period of years. Each match added a little to that;



**“
In the beginning, I didn't
want to be remembered—
just feared. As you get
older, things look different.
”**

some matches added a lot. But I'm going to be remembered for who I am, not for something I've done.

Q: And what will that man be remembered for?

A: I never backed down from a challenge.

Q: Is that how you wanted to be remembered when you started?

A: In the beginning, I didn't want to be remembered—just feared. As you get older, things look different. In the past, I didn't really care about a home, family, things like that. Now I know that was stupid. But all athletes are stupid like that.

Q: How come it's only after you get the glory that you wonder if it was worth it?

A: There are a lot of questions we can't answer. Let's stop the tape and talk for ourselves. □

TOP WRESTLE

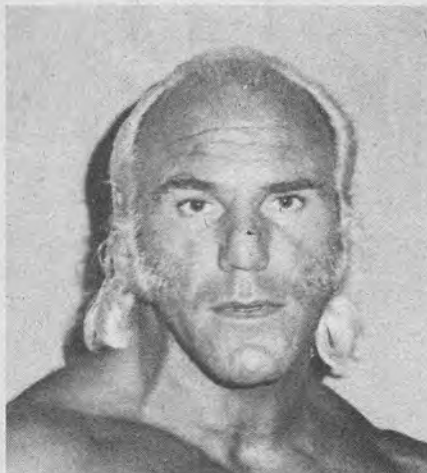
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

The "Question of the Month" is:

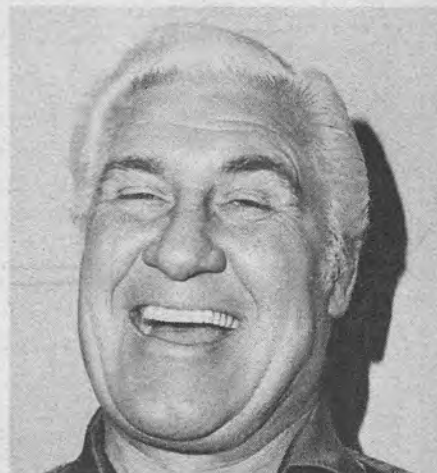
"What Do You Think of Death Matches?"

**Submitted by:
Eric Marsh;
Stockton,
California**



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

"They aren't my favorite type of match, but I won't say anything against them, either. Death Matches have a place in wrestling. They serve a purpose. And sometimes, they can be very effective."



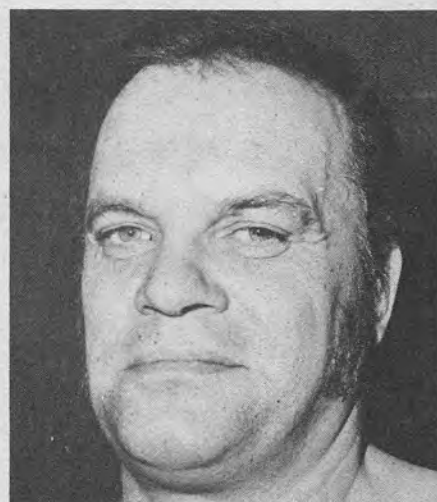
FRED BLASSIE

"Love 'em. Really do. There's nothing finer than seein' a good Death Match. And I've seen plenty of 'em, too. They help keep a wrestler alive. I recommend 'em to all my wrestlers. Helps a lot."



MIL MASCARAS

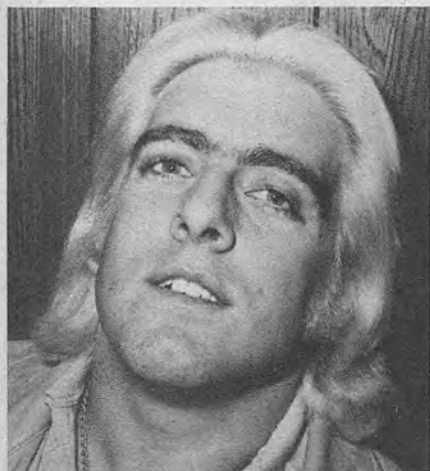
"There is no justification for Death Matches. I have consistently refused to participate in them. We are all civilized men. Why should we suddenly revert to methods practiced at the dawn of time?"



STAN STASIAK

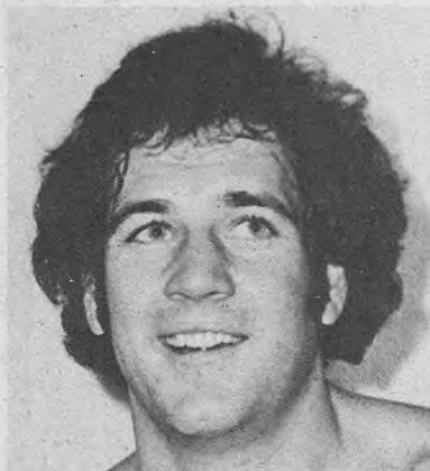
"Put me in a Death Match, and I am the happiest man in earth. I love them. They are the most fun I have in wrestling. I love to watch a man suffer because of what I've done to him. What could be finer?"

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



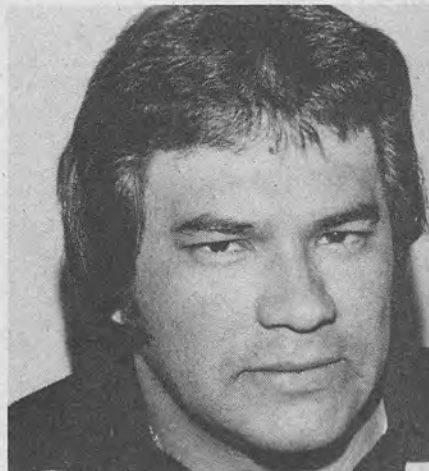
RIC FLAIR

"I really don't care one way or the other about Death Matches. I've wrestled in a few. They've been all right. I've had more fun. However, I do like the idea that I can't be a rulebreaker in a match with no rules."



GREG GAGNE

"To me, Death Matches are a disgrace to the sport. I cannot imagine any man really liking them. Who can enjoy something so brutal as a Death Match. The thought alone is frightening."



CHAVO GUERRERO

"I don't like them. I have been in many of them, and I still don't like them, in spite of the fact that I know how to win. Death Matches have no place in wrestling. They should have been banned long ago."



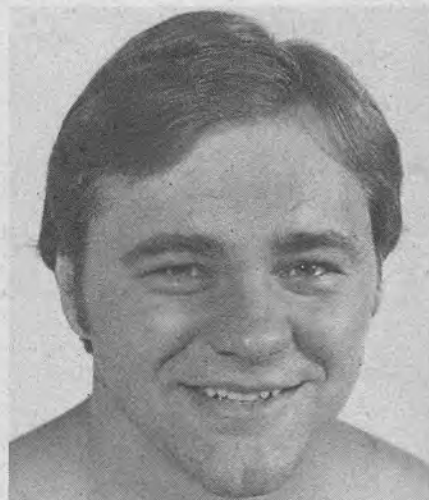
TERRY FUNK

"I'll be honest: I like Death Matches. They are the ultimate test of any man's ability. In fact, any man who says he doesn't like them is just afraid to wrestle in one. Me, I'm not afraid of anything!"



DUSTY RHODES

"Death Matches can be very helpful, if you know what I mean. If a man's been bothering me, the fastest way to get rid of him is with a Death Match. Stops 'em every time!"

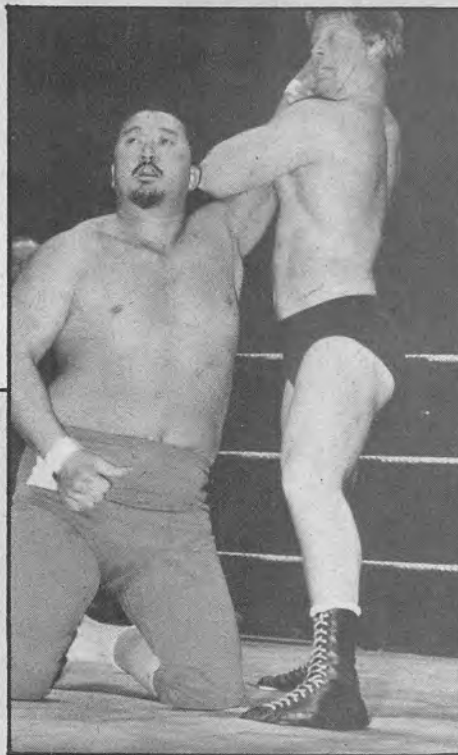
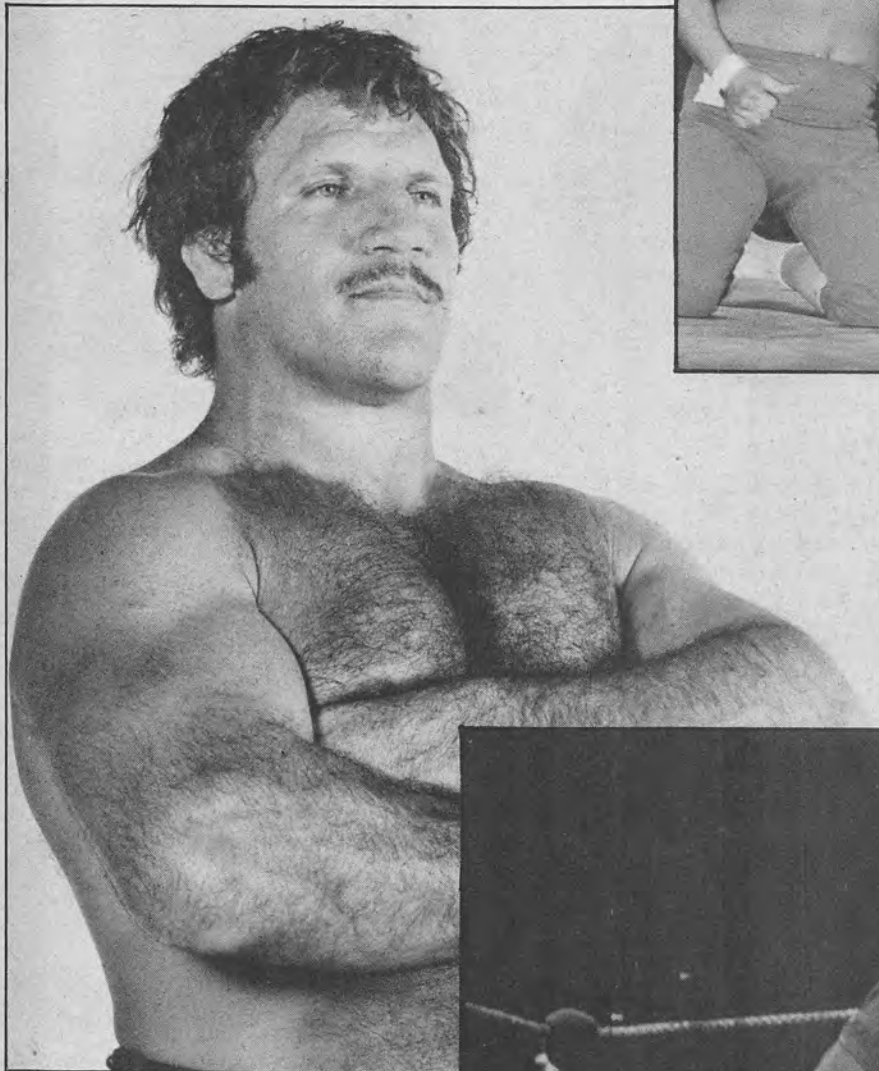


LARRY ZBYSZKO

"Who needs Death Matches? I find them insulting to my intelligence. I won't wrestle in one unless I really have to. And even then I don't like what I have to do. Wrestling could get along quite well without them." □

HE HAD HURT before, but never like this. He had won the match, but at what a price! He was feeling so low, the bottom was looking like up to him. In short, Bob Backlund knew he had made some big mistakes when he took on Mr. Fuji. And now he was paying for them.

The bounce was definitely gone from his step as he made his way

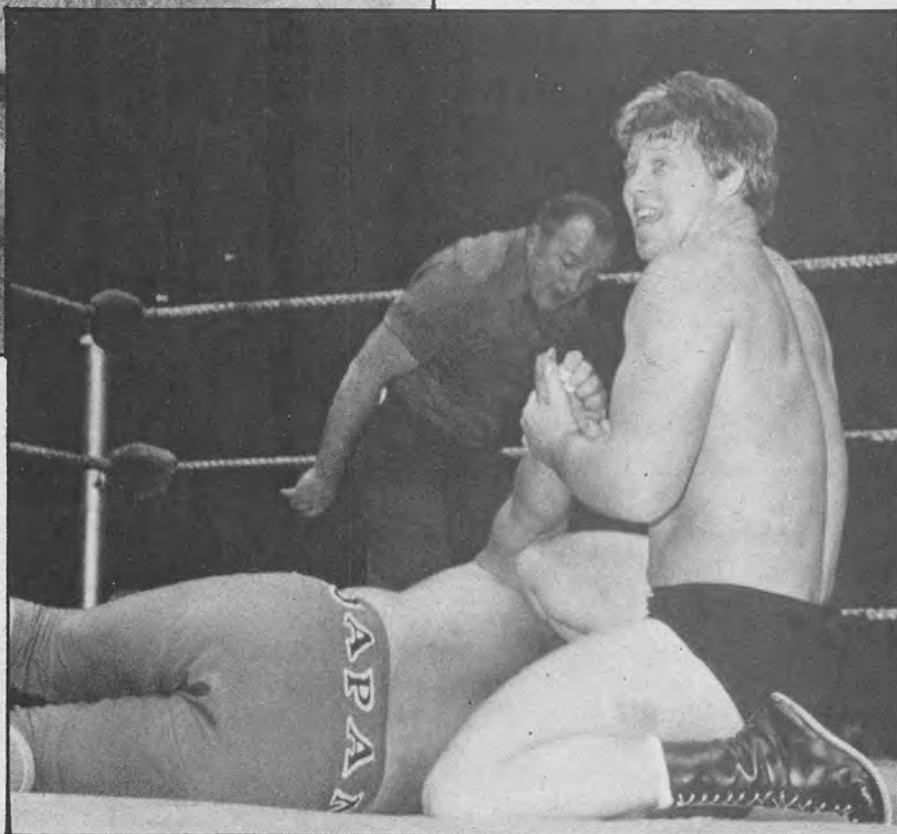


Backlund snares Fuji in an armlock (left). The great legendary Bruno Sammartino (far left) thinks Bob should become more aggressive and use rule-breaking tactics on occasion. Bob uses another scientific hold on Fuji (bottom of page). Bruno feels Bob must toughen up before he can achieve his goal to be champion.

WHAT CAN L

out of the arena. Though his bones ached, it was his ego which had been most badly hurt on this night. He learned just what his limitations really are. After all, every man can only do just so much. Bob Backlund learned this—the hard way.

Years from now, when he looks back on this match, Bob may believe this match to have been a turning point in his career. He will most certainly think it had some impact on his life.





Although his scientific tactics are proving successful (left) Bob also takes his share of punishment (below), but will only wrestle cleanly when the time comes for him to retaliate.



BOB BACKLUND EARN FROM BRUNO SAMMARTINO

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

Many stories have been written recently about Bob Backlund. One of the most frequently noted facts is that the young man's rise to fame has been spectacular. He is usually compared to a young Bruno Sammartino, who also rose quickly through the sport's ranks.

The comparison is easy to make. Both men gained immediate acceptance with fans. Both displayed a natural ability right from the start. Both quickly jumped into title contention.

Therefore, it seems logical that there is much Backlund can learn

from Sammartino. This much is true, even though their styles differ greatly. Bob relies on his lightning-quick maneuvers to see him through matches. Over the years, Bruno has tended to use his strength to his advantage. For the

(Continued on page 56)

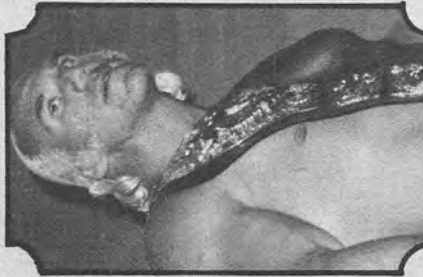
Bruno Sammartino knew a wrestler had to be a little dirty sometimes to keep the sport clean. Bob Backlund is still idealistic. He wants to do everything by the book. It's about time the young superstar learned a lesson from the legend of wrestling's greatest champion

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: SUPER-STAR GRAHAM



1—BOB BACKLUND

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: HARLEY RACE



1—RIC FLAIR

Most Popular Wrestlers

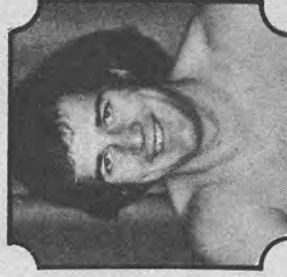


1—DUSTY RHODES



2—ANDRE THE GIANT

Tag Teams



1—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL



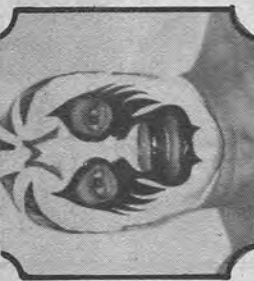
2—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—KEN PATERA





2—MIL MASCARAS



3—DUSTY RHODES



4—KEN PATERA

- 5—SPIROS ARION
- 6—PETER MAIVIA
- 7—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
- 8—LARRY
ZBYSZKO
- 9—TONY GAREA
- 10—BUTCHER
VACHON



2—LARRY HENNIG



3—RAY STEVENS



4—BILLY
ROBINSON

- 5—JIM BRUNZELL
- 6—GREG GAGNE
- 7—SUPER
DESTROYER
- 8—PAT
PATTERSON
- 9—ANGELO
MOSCA
- 10—BOB ORTON JR.



2—DUSTY RHODES

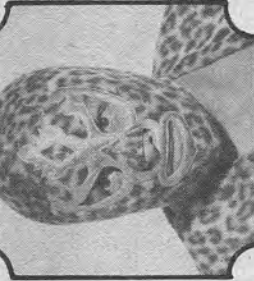


3—ROCKY
JOHNSON



4—BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN

- 5—DICK SLATER
- 6—TERRY FUNK
- 7—JACK BRISCO
- 8—DORY FUNK JR.
- 9—PEDRO
MORALES
- 10—PAUL JONES



3—MIL MASCARAS



4—WAHOO
McDANIEL



5—RICK
STEAMBOAT

- 6—BILLY
ROBINSON
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—ROCKY
JOHNSON
- 9—PAUL JONES
- 10—JIM BRUNZELL



2—MR. FUJI & PRO-
FESSOR TANAKA



3—RIC FLAIR &
GREG VALENTINE



4—MR. SAITO &
IVAN KOLOFF

- 5—OLE ANDERSON
& JACQUES GOULET
- 6—PAUL JONES &
RICK STEAMBOAT
- 7—RAY STEVENS
& PAT PATTERSON
- 8—THE VALIANT
BROTHERS
- 9—PETER MAIVIA
& CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
- 10—ALBERTO
MADRIL &
JOSE LOTHARIO



3—IVAN KOLOFF



4—OX BAKER



5—RIC FLAIR

- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—GREG
VALENTINE
- 8—JIM VALIANT
- 9—BLACKJACK
LANZA
- 10—SPIROS ARION

The Fans Speak Out:

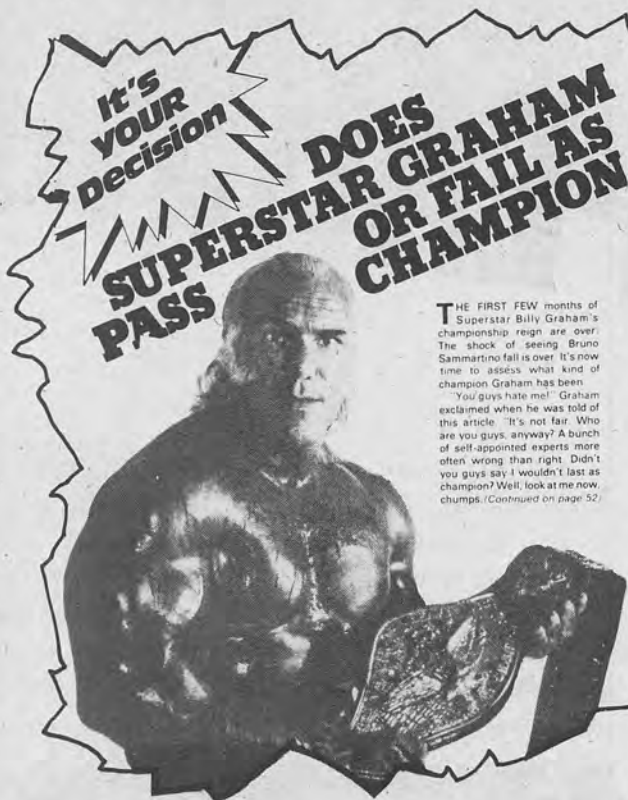


Fans are outraged that Graham uses tactics such as choking opponent Dusty Rhodes with a rope (above). He shows no mercy as he squeezes the breath out of the former champion, Bruno Sammartino (below).



SUPERSTAR DISGRACE

The results are in. Fans from all over the world have declared their anger and sorrow at the championship reign of Superstar Billy Graham. What they said and why they said it results in the most revealing insight into wrestling fans ever printed!



THE FIRST FEW months of Superstar Billy Graham's championship reign are over. The shock of seeing Bruno Sammartino fall is over. It's now time to assess what kind of champion Graham has been. "You guys hate me!" Graham exclaimed when he was told of this article. "It's not fair. Who are you guys, anyway? A bunch of self-appointed experts more often wrong than right. Didn't you guys say I wouldn't last as champion? Well, look at me now, chumps." (Continued on page 52)

SPECIAL FAN BALLOT

"DOES
SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM
PASS
OR FAIL?"

(FILL IN
HIS MARK)

	INSIDE WRESTLING'S MARK	YOUR MARK
CONDUCT: Takes into account how a man acts in the ring. Does he conduct himself with integrity at all times? If he does break the rules, does he do so only with good reason?	D	_____
ABILITY: This is not a personality contest. Whether or not you like Graham is not important. You must be fair in grading him in this category. Does he have ability or not? If so, how much? Base your grade on this and this alone!	A-	_____
MANEUVERS: Does Superstar Graham know many different wrestling holds and tactics? Cruelty, viciousness, and cheating do not constitute acceptable maneuvers. If you think Graham knows wrestling science, give him a high mark. Final decision: If you think he's a grade.	F	_____
FINAL GRADE: This is the category in which you decide whether or not Graham passes or fails. This is an overall mark, not an average of the three above categories.	D- (Pass)	_____

Send your ballot to: Graham Report Card
c/o T.V. Sports
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

The original ballot (above) ran in the January 1978 edition of **INSIDE WRESTLING**. Fans were asked to grade Graham in several categories.

THE RESULTS OF the most exhaustive poll in wrestling history are in. The fans have made their opinion very clear. Superstar Billy Graham is a disgrace to the WWWF championship.

We asked our readers to grade Graham in four categories: conduct, ability, maneuvers, and final grade (one's overall opinion of Graham, not an average of the previous marks). The response

was tremendous. Although our experts said Graham barely passed as champion, 68% of our readers marked "F" next to FINAL GRADE.

Many included strong statements condemning Graham and his conduct. Interestingly enough, many of these same people admitted Graham's ability and maneuvers should be rated "A". No one denies Graham's athletic skills, his superb coordination,

or his awesome power. However, his cruelty and rulebreaking have no place in the make-up of a wrestling champion. For this, Graham is condemned.

Before we go further, it must be reported that Graham also received many favorable comments. Those who like Graham gave him "A+" in every category. Many included less than kind remarks about former

(Continued on page 58)

R GRAHAM IS A TO THE TITLE!



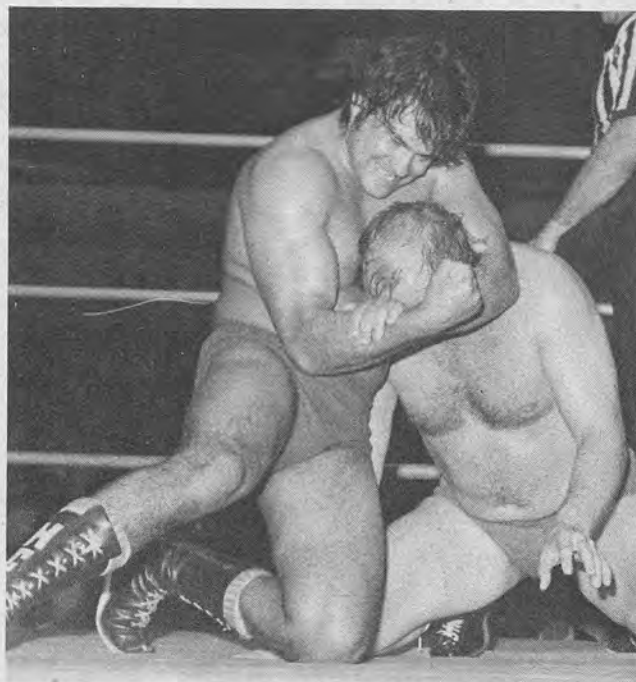
Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

PITTSBURGH: This town is a night gone on too long and the bile is stinging the back of your throat and for some reason a stranger is throwing punches at you and you're punching back. Neither of you care, but the night demands some action to cut the senseless anger. You can see it in the wrestling matches. Scientific wrestlers get mean and rulebreakers look to cripple. Ivan Putski is a case in point. A nice guy. Inside a Pittsburgh arena, he becomes a maniac. It's scary to watch him tear people apart. Maybe I'm blaming the town because this stops me from blaming Putski. If the man is getting rougher, I don't want to know about it. Tony Garea says you can't blame a town for anything. They're all the same, anyway, once the road becomes your home. He can be wrong too.

SEATTLE: Lurking on the dark side of every scientific wrestler is the spirit of Don Leo Jonathan. He's what happens to a decent man who wants victory just a little too much. He could have been a legend as a scientific wrestler. Yet, he traded his immortality for a few cheap conquests. He's not complaining, though, so why should I. I just watch for the flashes of his brilliance and despise his cheating. You don't hate a man for using illegal tactics if that's all he can do. It's the waste of greatness that enrages. Turn to Jimmy Snuka for solace. Here's a man who knows his skills and enjoys them. He doesn't need a victory to prove anything. That's why it's cause for celebration when he wins. This

is a good city for victory celebrations. It lets a man alone. After all, it's not Snuka I'm praising, but my own ideals about what wrestling should be. Most of the time, a man mourns the difference between reality and ideals. It's all the same the morning after.

LOS ANGELES: I lost the bet and here I am. This is a city for people who naturally smile.



CHAVO GUERRERO

They like lights too much and put too much garbage in alcohol. When you order a straight drink, they ask if you're enjoying your vacation. I tell them no. I enjoyed seeing Chavo Guerrero, though. I know his father, Gory, very well. It's nice to see the son is also

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

a fine athlete. There's a quiet dignity to the boy, just like his father. It's worth going to L.A. to see him in action. He's fast, quick, and smart. Though I may not be around to see it, the next generation of wrestlers will have at least one scientific superstar.



CARPENTIER VS. THESZ

ST. LOUIS: This city is just a decent late-night bar away from civilization. Still, the wrestling here is as good as anywhere else in the world. It's the crossroads of the NWA and AWA. Maybe that's the reason it has hosted the most remarkable scientific matches ever. I remember Edouard Carpentier wrestling Lou Thesz here for the championship. The next day, I quit my job as a crime reporter and started working for a wrestling magazine. There was so much majesty to chronicle. It didn't take me long however, to realize it wasn't all glory. Still, for those moments when the human spirit drove the body to its limits, I never regretted

my decision. Tonight, I saw Jack Brisco wrestle Dick Slater. They may not be the greatest wrestlers in the world, but on this night there were no two men better. Yeah, I'm a pretty lucky guy to be doing what I do. Even later, when Slater yelled at me for



STRONGBOW VS. PATERA

something I wrote, nothing was said that made me change my mind. I've been yelled at before. I'm still here.

BANGOR: It's too cold for people. No one goes out; the streets are deserted. That's why it's a shock to walk into the arena and find it crowded. People up here never let the weather interfere with what they want to do. Pioneer spirit. Insanity. One could forget the cold watching Chief Jay Strongbow battle Ken Patera. The two men are superbly matched. It's as if the two opposite ends of the wrestling spectrum decided to rush headlong on a collision course. Patera's cruelty wars against Strongbow's dignity. Neither man can claim a decisive victory over the other. Is there a moral to be drawn from that? Better not ask. The answer might be too painful. After seeing such a great battle, you can walk out into the cold night and not feel a thing. For about 10 seconds. You can feel lonely in a Bangor motel cottage late at night. You can also feel very cold. □

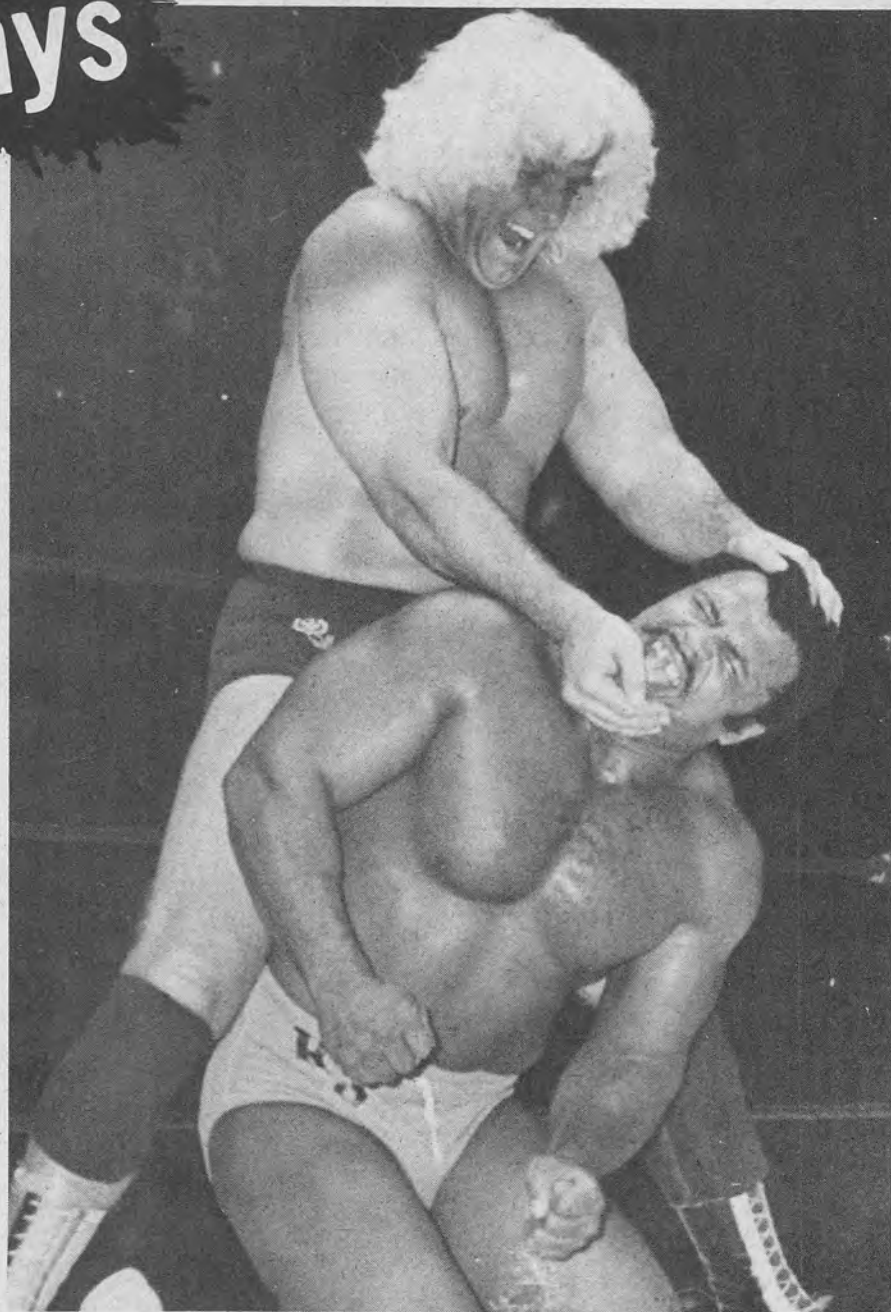
Why Ric Flair Says

Ric Flair tries to break Rocky Johnson's neck during their classic match in Miami, Florida. Flair plans to take his brand of savagery to every major U.S. city.

THE ROADMAP LAY spread out on Ric Flair's desk. Certain cities were circled in red. Next to each was the name of a wrestler. Each circle and name represented a milestone in Ric Flair's career. Each was a piece of the jigsaw puzzle which, when assembled, would reveal Flair as the NWA king.

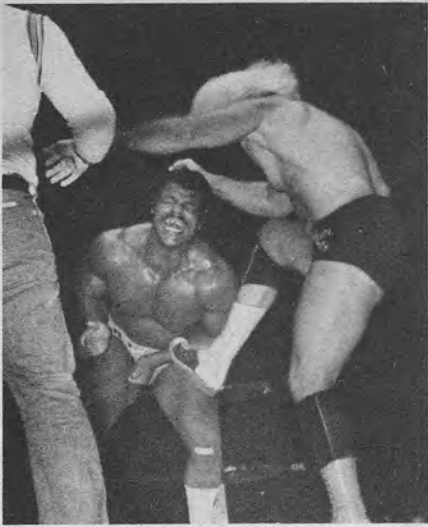
The man's cunning is undeniable. His strategy would have brought a nod of approval from Napoleon. The Emperor couldn't help but smile at the battleplan laid out on the map. The method behind this seemingly random sample of people and places was worthy of any great conqueror.

The name, written largest and underlined twice, was Rocky Johnson. This would be the most important challenge for Flair, the one he had to



**I'LL BE
NWA
CHAMPION FOR THE
NEXT 20 YEARS!"**

Ric Flair is a man of ambition and ruthlessness. He knows what he wants and isn't too particular about how he gets it. If Flair succeeds, wrestling will never be the same again!



A vicious kick to the midsection forces Johnson to double over (above). Flair (right) claims that no one can stop him from winning the NWA title.

win. It wasn't important to get a legal victory. Flair had something in mind more to the tune of hospitalizing Johnson. That would be perfect.

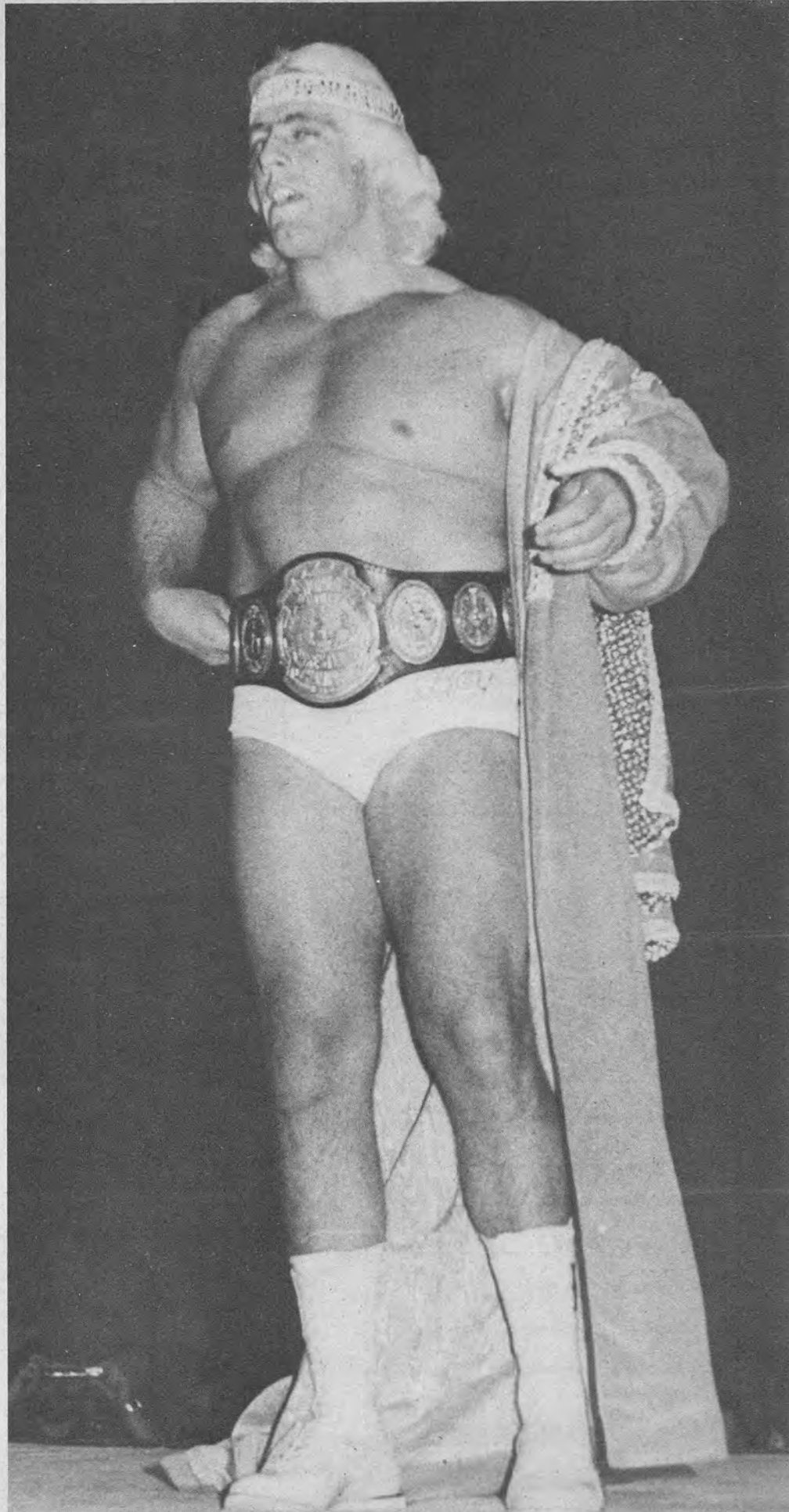
After Johnson, others would wind up in the same ward. Slowly but surely, Flair would destroy the NWA. The top men would be driven from the sport. Only one would remain. Ric Flair. He would then challenge the champion, win and there would be no decent challengers for his title. Flair would have wiped out an entire generation of wrestlers!

Of course, it takes more than planning to win a war. Flair has to go out and wrestle these men. But Ric is so confident, he wants the world to know what he plans. Even Napoleon never warned his enemies. Of course, Napoleon only wanted to conquer the world. He lacked Flair's scope of ambition.

"The way I have it figured," Flair proclaims, his eyes glowing with visions of future carnage, "within a year, I'll be the only decent athlete in wrestling. The others will either be crippled, scared, or searching for some other profession. Not since the Black Plague will people have disappeared so quickly.

"I don't care if they know. It won't help them. I have strategies to

(Continued on page 62)



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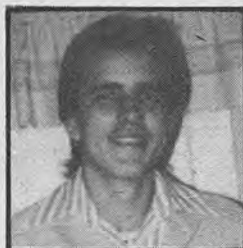
NITA BINGISSER (13)
3319 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
Likes sports. Jimmy
Snuka her favorite.
Likes good guys. Boys
for pen pals.



CHUCK GAUTIER (13)
3416 Avenue S
Galveston, TX 77550
Enjoys soccer. Rocky
Johnson his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



GREG DONATO (11)
7230 Bucks Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111
Likes sports. Tony
Garea his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



RIPLEY GRIFFIN (18)
313 E. Bluff St.
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
Likes boxing. Andre the
Giant his favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls for
pen pals.



MARIO GARCIA (13)
327 W. 28th St.
Miami Beach, FL 33140
Enjoys basketball. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



MARTIN NORITSKY (12)
2931 Avenue X
Brooklyn, NY 11235
Likes baseball. Abdullah
the Butcher his favorite.
Likes bad guys. Girls
for pen pals.



BILLY FALLON (10)
125 Putnam Drive
Westfield, MA 01085
Likes baseball. Andre
the Giant his favorite.
Likes good guys. Boys
for pen pals.



LARRY JAMES (11)
902 Skylark
Mansfield, TX 76063
Enjoys karate. Moondog
Mayne his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



LORI CHILDRESS (14)
F-5 Rice Terrace
Bristol, VA 24201
Likes to swim. Paul
Jones her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



RORY PARNESS (12)
97-10 62nd Drive
Rego Park, NY 11374
Likes baseball. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JOEY BUCCI (12)
1005 Maple St.
Conshohocken, PA 19428
Likes sports. Bruno
Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



SCOTT COSHIN (12)
111 Spring Mill Ave.
Conshohocken, PA 19428
Likes sports. Bruno
Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.

N PAIS



JAMES ROBERSON (15)
Route 1 Box 288
Oak City, NC 27857
Enjoys sports. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



LENA DUNCAN (13)
Pine Knot, KY 42635
Likes tennis. Jimmy
Golden her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



STACEY LONG (11)
RD 3
Ford City, PA 16226
Enjoys swimming. Billy
Graham her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for PP's.



MARVIN BOWSTRING (12)
Inger Route
Deer River, MN 56636
Likes baseball. Wahoo
McDaniel his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



DAVID YEOMANS (15)
18A Druid Hill Ave.
Burlington, MA 01803
Enjoys drawing. Jay
Strongbow his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



GAIL ANDERSON (22)
Route 1 Box 63
Aynor, SC 29511
Collects miniatures. Paul
Jones her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JERRY FRAENKEL (18)
Box 1023 Union College
Schenectady, NY 12308
Enjoys skating. Baron
Von Raschke his favorite.
Likes bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



MYLES ROBINSON (13)
P.O. Box 243
Everglades, FL 33929
Likes sports. Ernie
Ladd his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



CATHY BERRY (12)
1105 Deorsam Drive
Copperas Cove, TX 76522
Likes rollerskating. Ivan
Putski her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



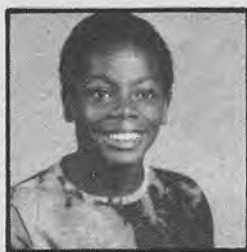
LINDA MORSE (13)
Machiasport, ME 04655
Rides horses. Andre the
Giant her favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Boys for PP's.



RANDY KELLEMS (14)
911 W 1st.
Peoria, IL 61605
Builds models. Wahoo
McDaniel his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



JEFF PECK (11)
4007 S. Travis
Amarillo, TX 79110
Likes baseball. Terry
Funk his favorite. Likes
good guys. Boys for PP's.



CHARLES SMITH (14)
621 Sanfford St.
Fairmont, NC 28340
Enjoys fishing. Bobo
Brazil his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Girls for PP's.



CHRISTOPHER YURISTA (8)
914 W. 1st St.
Hazelton, PA 18201
Likes to fish. Andre
the Giant his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JEFF PITRE (13)
Rt. 1 Box 174
Cut Off, LA 70345
Likes sports. Bob
Sweetan his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



KIRK ROYSTON (18)
Rt. 6 Squibb Drive
Johnson City, TN 37601
Enjoys sports. Ric
Flair his favorite.
Likes bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



JEFFREY LUCK (11)
97-10 62nd Drive
Rego Park, NY 11374
Likes baseball. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



LORA HALL (13)
105 Heidelberg Dr.
Hope Mills, NC 28348
Enjoys skate boarding.
Pez Wheatley her favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



ABBY LAWRENCE (14)
Box 84
Moran, TX 76464
Likes fish ng. Dusty
Rhodes her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for PP's.



NEIL SAPOLSKY (11)
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Enjoys skate boarding.
Bruno Sammartino his
favorite. Likes good
guys. Girls for PP's.

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)

battles more boring than an episode of *The Kallikaks* on television. In short, my career is just like anyone else's these days. I'd like to have better opponents. I'd like to go for the glitter and glamour battles. But I do what I can with what I have. Does that make sense?"



Above: Dory stands with brother Terry before a tag team bout. Below: Dory loses the NWA title to Harley Race.



Sure, I understood. He was looking for a little more than what he had now. But he was still content nevertheless. He had responsibilities to his family, and he could not pursue every dream. He let Terry do that. And I asked him, "Are you living your life through Terry?"

"What Terry does," replied Dory angrily, "is his doing. I just advise him when he asks me to. I exert no

control over the opponents he picks. I did not tell him whether or not he should go off to do a movie. I'm glad he has been successful. He has never brought shame to the Funk family. That is all that matters in the end, isn't it?"

It is always the family. Every discussion with Dory Funk ends up being about the family. It is his overriding concern. It explains his keen interest in Terry's career. He wants to make sure his brother does nothing to shame the family's honor.

"Either Terry or I will regain the NWA belt from Harley Race. We both would like to avenge a loss to Race. We both have tried. Right now, I am the only one still trying to bring the title back here where it belongs. But when the filming is all done—and that should be very soon, from what I've heard—Terry will be back on the circuit. He'll earn another title shot.

"Sometimes I wonder how Harley Race must feel having the entire Funk family as an enemy. You know, I think it would scare me. It probably terrifies Race. As well it should. He knows he is living on borrowed time. Sooner or later the belt will come back to Amarillo, its proper home."

I found it most interesting that Dory's concept of the NWA title was that it was a piece of property which belongs to the Funks. Most interesting.

Too soon it was time to get back on the road. I thanked Dory for his hospitality, wished him well in his future endeavors, and left.

Just one thing bothered me. The NWA title belongs to no man. And it certainly belongs to no family. What was Dory talking about? I simply do not understand. What does it all mean? □

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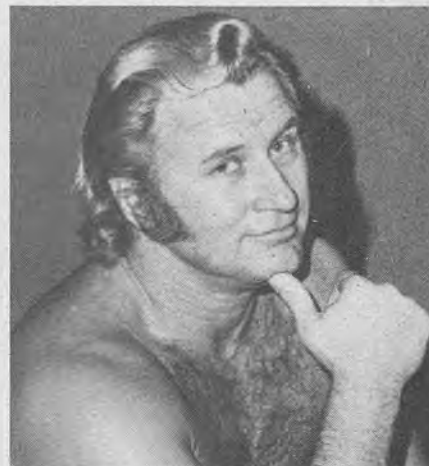
BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

They do find him. And they find the many other brave men who risk life and limb to show the world what wrestling is all about. These men can conquer the challenges because they're determined. There is some courageous quality that most of us can never understand. We must just sit in awe of their bravery.

Surprisingly, these men are relatively free of bitterness, considering the raw deal they have. Most people would curse their fates if their profession was filled with people determined to destroy them. Yet, this small corps of

wrestles, announcers, commissioners, promoters, and fans. To hell with these hypocritical fools who can't see the beauty of men like Stan Hansen, Nick



It is a damn shame that most fans do not respect Nick Bockwinkel (top of page) and the great Stan Hansen (above).

dedicated athletes absorbs the mental and physical punishment, knowing their dreams are worth any hardships.

Wrestling doesn't deserve these great men in its ranks. Everyone is against them:

Bockwinkel, Superstar Billy Graham, and Blackjack Lanza. When disgraces like Billy Robinson, Bob Backlund, and Jack Brisco are long forgotten, the "rulebreakers" will be remembered as the great warriors of wrestling. As Ernie Ladd says, "What are

boos when compared against immortality?"

So the fans can shout themselves hoarse. No one will listen. These men listen to far more important voices.

As Ric Flair says, "There's a magical feeling when you're wrestling brilliantly that nothing in the world can compare with. I've known that feeling, the power of totally dominating another human being, and wouldn't trade it for all the



All the cheers in the world will not make Ric Flair become a different man when he gets in the ring.

cheers in the world. The popular wrestlers aren't good enough athletes to know the thrill of wrestling, so they settle for the cheers.

"Anyone can stay within the rules. It's the pioneers, the men who go past the limits, who add to the sport, who make it better. Do you know there was a time when the full-nelson was outlawed? It still is in amateur wrestling. Now, everyone uses it. It took a rulebreaker to do that. We are the vanguard. The popular guys have sold out the sport for a few cheers and a little safety. That'll never happen to me. I want no limits. Wrestling is still growing, changing. I'm growing with it."

These are brave men who risk life and limb for the sport they love. The fans are too stupid to understand. ☐

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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)

me on keeping Patera from being proclaimed as the "Strongest Man in the World." But there were hundreds of letters which blasted me for doing such a thing.

"You've stooped to Patera's level," one letter read.

"Your jokes and pranks on wrestlers have been hilarious—until this. It's despicable!" another letter said.



Ken Patera wins the tire toss in the "World's Strongest Man Competition." Ken might have won the tournament had it not been for Randy Gordon.

A few fans even went so far as to suggest I exaggerated the story of how I prevented Patera from winning the competition—just to make me look like a hero.

The fact is, the story was *not* exaggerated. I, along with my twin brother, Ric, did harass Patera to the point where he could not give an all-out effort. If you should ever watch the films of the competition again, don't watch the performers—watch the surrounding screen. You'll see Ric and myself racing up and down the sidelines

heckling Patera.

It's true Patera competed with an injured back. However, Ken's back had been bothering him for some time. It never stopped him from winning wrestling matches against the biggest, toughest, meanest, and best wrestlers in the world. There is no reason why Patera's bad back should have effected his performance in feats of strength. Ken is like a shark—neither of them ever know the meaning of the word "quit." If Ken felt any real pain at all during the CBS competition, it wasn't from his back—it was from me! I can be much more than a pain in the back!

It is through this column that I am asking you the fans to accept my apologies for overstepping my bounds as an investigative reporter. And to Ken Patera, who could have brought honor, dignity, and a measure of respect to professional wrestling through a universally accepted championship, I can only ask forgiveness.

I am a professional, and I am in the same business as Ken Patera. The trouble is, we hold different views. My dislike for the man was carried outside the arena. This is something which I should not have allowed to happen. I am truly sorry.

This may sound unbelievable, but I'd like to have dinner with Ken. I'd like to look him in the eyes and say, "Ken, from the bottom of my heart, I'm sorry." He can then take it or leave it, with the knowledge that once we get back in that arena, once he sets foot behind the dressing room door, my war against him and all rulebreakers is on again. In full force! □

NAMES MAKIN' NEWS

(Continued from Page 15)

Jay. "We are determined to win it from them no matter what we have to do—even if we have to break a few rules to do it!" Also hot on the tail of the Japanese duo are TONY GAREA and LARRY ZBYSZKO.

LATE BULLETIN: LARS ANDERSON has been stripped of the Florida state championship! Here are the full details: During the match in which Anderson was trying to win the belt from DUSTY RHODES, KILLER KARL KOX interfered on Lars' behalf (the referee did not see Kox interfere). Lars was awarded the belt, but the Florida commission has taken the title away since viewing the films of the match. Anderson is burning mad at Kox, claiming, "I told that skunk to stay away; that I could handle that whale myself. Now look what he's done. I am through with Kox. I demand to wrestle that dirty double-crossing slob!" Kox is also anxious to wrestle Anderson.

Rookie TULLY BLANCHARD, son of veteran great Joltin' Joe Blanchard, proved that he's main event material when he recently edged out ERIC THE RED . . . IVAN KOLOFF and MR. SAITO, Florida tag team champions, are on the run, since MIKE GRAHAM and STEVE KEIRN, along with JACK and JERRY BRISCO, are all bidding for shots at the title . . . BLACK ANGUS has joined the Florida mat wars . . . Also in Florida is BOBBY DUNCUM. This seems odd since Bobby is supposedly in the stable of AWA manager BOBBY HEENAN. Our sources in the AWA note that Heenan may have fired Duncum.

That's all for now. See you next month! ☐



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)

was more important than embarrassing Patera. No matter what he thinks of Patera, Randy should have let him win.

We all make mistakes. I think Randy Gordon made a big one.
MARISSA FRANCIANO
Des Moines, Iowa

EDITOR'S NOTE: For Randy's response to this and many other critical letters on this subject, see this month's "Behind the Dressing Room Door."

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SHUT HIM UP!

Of all the gall! Of all the disgusting gall! How dare Ric Flair say "Now I'm the American Dream" (February 1978), taking away Dusty Rhodes' glory!



Ric Flair says he has the brains and raw talent to take him to the top, and he—not Dusty Rhodes—is the man who should be known as "The American Dream."

Ric Flair isn't fit to lick Dusty's boots. Rhodes is the greatest wrestler who has ever lived. No one can come close to him. Dusty is a hero. Flair is a rat, the biggest cheat in wrestling today.

It's just like Flair to lose and

then claim he really won. The trick won't work, though. Nothing can take away from Dusty's greatness. All his fans know he's the best. And we're in the millions.



Andre the Giant holds the young boy who specializes in telling Andre what holds to use against various opponents!

Long live Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream!" Ric Flair will never come close!

CLAUDIA WILLIAMS
Rome, Ga.

ANDRE AND THE KID

After reading "How This Child Will Make Andre Champion" (February 1978). I thought this had to be the most remarkable story in professional sports. My father, however, tells me young children figure prominently in sport history.

Babe Ruth once hit a home run for a child in the hospital. Many athletes admit their children give them ideas. Inspiration from children's letters to sports heroes is common.

Andre is lucky to have his young friend. What I didn't know is that many athletes in all sports are just as lucky!

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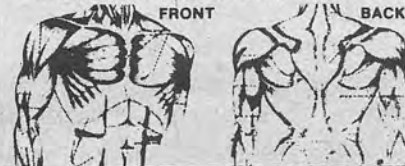
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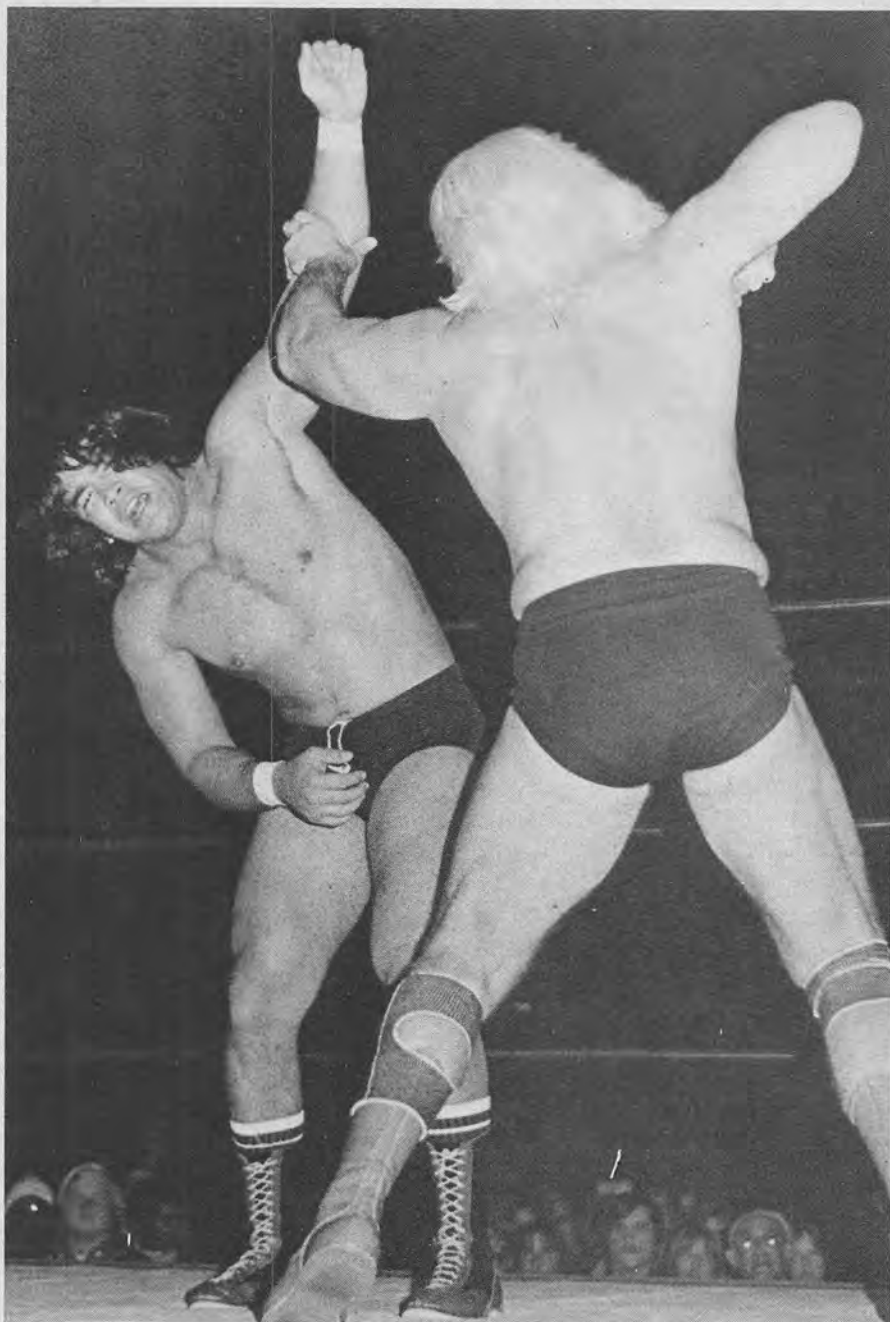
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**BEN
STRONG**

RICKY STEAMBOAT

(Continued from Page 23)



Ric Flair is about to punch the weakened Steamboat during a particularly brutal match. Steamboat rarely wrestles preliminary wrestlers; he keeps up a hectic schedule, wrestling only the top competitors.

more than willing to please the fans. If crowds cheer when Steamboat takes on a hated veteran, then that's who Rick must wrestle. If the ambitious and courageous grappler enjoys doing it, so much the better. After all, there will always be another young man to take over when Rick is too badly mangled to continue. If nobody

complains, why rock the boat by having compassion for the youngster?

In all fairness, it must be said there are a group of experts who honestly believe Rick is ready to wrestle the most dangerous opponents. As one respected mat journalist recently opined, "You throw out all the rules when you talk about Rick

Steamboat. He's one of the special ones, a man born with wrestling genius. There is no match too difficult for him. Those who say he's not ready for the top grapplers are just afraid to admit someone could come along who is greater than the rules."

There are some who care about Rick, and are ready to admit they're afraid. Happily acknowledging Rick's greatness, they still fear the man isn't ready to cope with the extraordinary event. That knowledge comes only through



A very bad moment for Steamboat as Flair has him totally at his mercy. Many people feel Rick should not take on men like Flair, Mulligan, and others like them so often.

experience. If Rick has to battle someone with a totally new maneuver, he could easily be crippled. There is no substitute for experience. Rick doesn't have the experience to save himself from the unknown.

When Rick is asked about his meteoric career, he smiles and admits, "I suppose I could take it
(Continued on page 54)

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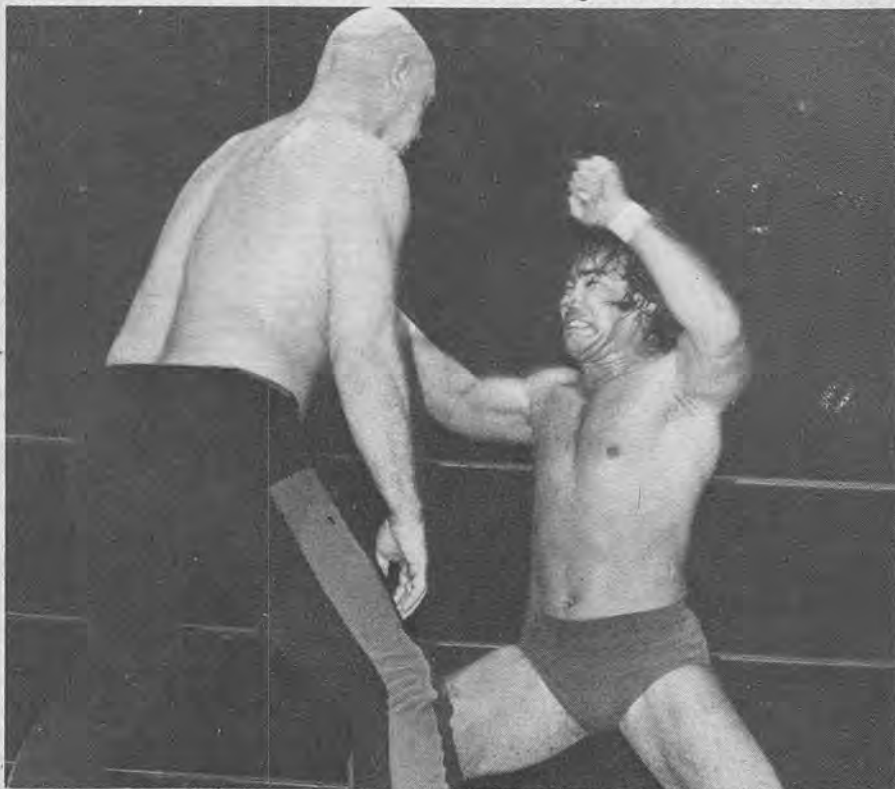
**People start pollution.
People can stop it.**

RICKY STEAMBOAT

(Continued from Page 53)

slower, choose my opponents more cautiously. But it's a short life, and maybe I won't be here tomorrow. Who's to say I won't be one of the 45,000 people killed in a car accident this year? A man has to live life to the fullest or not at all. If I fail, there'll only be me to blame. But if I succeed, that'll mean years on the top for me. Maybe I'm more ambitious than smart but

anger him, they'll go along with his ambitions. It's one way friends can behave. Still, everyone needs someone to remind them there is another way of doing things. Rick isn't fortunate enough to have such a friend. As one acquaintance said of Rick and his circle, "Rick is such a nice guy, you'll do anything to make him happy. He is kind, generous, and so full of



A bloody and enraged Steamboat rallies when he takes on Baron Von Raschke. All his knowledge does not help when Rick loses his Mid-Atlantic television title to the hated German star. This match was one night after the match against Flair.

I've been lucky so far."

Luck always balances out. You get the breaks for a few months, then things start going wrong. Maybe it's just a few small injuries. Maybe it's a stay in the hospital, giving you plenty of time to think about another career. A man who depends on luck winds up in trouble.

As for Rick's friends, their philosophy is to let the man do what he wants. Rather than

good spirits that he makes you feel like an ogre if you contradict him. His friends are like Rick, more kind than they should be. He's enjoying himself so much, no one has the heart to tell him to slow down."

Maybe it would be asking too much to expect the promoters to do anything. They're businessmen who make business decisions. Their responsibility is to their promotion, not to a



Mulligan kicks Steamboat as Rick tries to re-enter the ring after Blackjack tossed him over the top rope.

wrestler who may be making a tragic mistake. Are you responsible for a man's suicide if you only sell him the gun? One promoter defends his actions: "The kid can take care of himself. I've seen him take on the toughest guys around and do great. His skills are equal to any veteran. And nobody puts a gun to his head to accept these matches. If the law says he's old enough to sign a contract, who am I to tell him he doesn't know what he's doing?"

So Rick Steamboat is allowed to risk his career time and time again. Perhaps this article should be concluded with two quotes.



Ric Flair: "I'll kill him. he's gone too far."

Blackjack Mulligan: "I hate young punks who toady to the fans. I let him get off easy once. He won't escape again!" ☐

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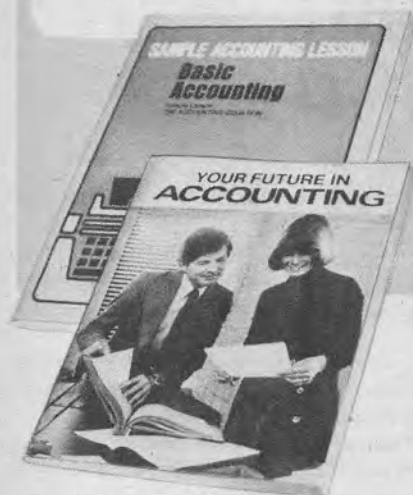
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BOB BACKLUND

(Continued from Page 33)



It is a happy but aching Bob Backlund who is declared winner (above). Fuji hurts Bob with a nervehold (below).



Bob has Fuji in trouble with a figure four armlock (below) in the latter part of a match which Bob will win.



most part, Sammartino remained a scientific wrestler. But there were occasions when Bruno brawled as viciously as the fiercest competitors.

Some people think this was Bruno's biggest fault. Others see it differently.

No one ever said wrestling was easy. There were times, Sammartino knew, when he had to fight fire with fire. He had to brawl in order to stop some vicious opponent from taking control. Sometimes it was necessary for Bruno to forget the rules. In a battle against a man like Mr. Fuji, it would be absolutely imperative.

Bob Backlund is a young man who is dedicated to staying within the rules. He feels he has learned enough elaborate maneuvers to keep his opponents confused. He is one of the quickest wrestlers in the sport. And so far, he has been able to maintain his principles. He has not brawled; he has dazzled his opponents with his ability. But ones does not dazzle Mr. Fuji. He has seen too much to be dazzled—even by someone like Backlund. He has one mission when he climbs into the ring: destroy his opponent in any way possible.

Many of his colleagues warned him, but Bob insisted on taking this match against Fuji. It is his belief that he learns something new from each man he wrestles. He certainly learned something on this night.

No one can say that Bob did not battle valiantly. He did the best he could under the circumstances. In many ways, he has never been more impressive in his maneuvers. But these complex tactics did not bother Fuji. He has seen it all and then some. He just waited for a short lull in the action, then went in for the kill.


To Fuji, there was no reason to show any mercy whatsoever to Bob. Indeed, the hated Japanese wrestler tried to savage Backlund, using whatever he could to stop the young man. Bob fought back as best he could, though he did not at any time resort to any illegal maneuvers. Still, it was clear that Backlund was in trouble.

In a similar situation, Bruno Sammartino would not have followed the same course Bob did. Sammartino would have realized there was no way he was going to win using scientific tactics. He would have started brawling. He would have put himself on an equal plane with Fuji. That way, Sammartino was sure to win the match, while at the same time save himself a lot of pain.

This time, Backlund was lucky. The referee finally disqualified Mr. Fuji. But what about the next time Bob faces a situation like this? Should he stick by his principles, or should he do what Bruno Sammartino would do? Look at the record. Bruno kept his title for many years, and he faced many vicious opponents.

There are occasions when one generation can teach the next generation how to survive. At this time, maybe it would be wise for Bob Backlund to take a few lessons from Bruno Sammartino.

Maybe then he wouldn't hurt so much after a battle with Mr. Fuji. ☐



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SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

(Continued from Page 37)

champions.

A small minority gave Graham a "C" for a final grade, feeling his tactics were "F" but the rest of his work was either "A" or "B". As one of these fans wrote, "A great champion is someone the fans can admire and respect. I can admire Graham's athletic abilities, but I can't respect the man." That pretty well sums up those who neither love nor hate the man.

It should also be duly noted that many of the votes expressing delight with Graham's title reign came from young women. The man's renown good looks tend to color the ladies' opinion of him. Charisma is a valid means of judging a man's success.

Interestingly enough, Graham scored much higher on ABILITY than MANEUVERS. The fans seem to feel Graham is capable of much more than he has so far revealed. Jim McKinnon writes, "Billy could be the greatest scientific wrestler of all time. I've seen him wrestle scientifically for moments at a time, and his abilities are second to none. Then, he takes the easy way out and cheats his way to victory. He doesn't employ 1/10 of the maneuvers he could do if he tried. Graham may be the biggest waste in professional wrestling. A real fan cries when he thinks of what Graham could be."

Those who praised Graham's maneuvers claimed the man wrestles as he does because he's forced to do it. His opponent and the referee are allowed to do anything while he is handcuffed by arbitrary rulings. While most people disagree with this theory, Graham's fans believe him to be



Graham shows no mercy as he punches away at his foe's back. So far as the fans are concerned, Graham is a disgrace as champion.

the victim of official persecution. If you like a man, it's easy to make excuses for his failings.

Those who despise Graham the most say he should be stripped of the title (only about 15% of the people who gave Graham "F" thought he should be banned from the sport completely). They point out his tactics have proven unstoppable by scientific means. Only a man equally notorious could conquer him. This wouldn't make any sense, for as one fan wrote, "Why change one disaster for another. The officials must show that Graham's behavior can't be tolerated. That can only be done by stripping Graham of the title and banning him from wrestling. After all, if Graham succeeds with punishment, then other wrestlers will do the same. An example must be

made."

We can draw some interesting conclusions from this poll. For the most part, wrestling fans think scientific wrestling is more important than success. Rulebreakers are neither liked nor tolerated. A man's conduct in the ring is more important than whether he wins or loses.

Yet, their dislike of a man doesn't blind them to his abilities. Wrestling fans are fair in their recognition of a man's skill. They will acknowledge greatness even in a man they despise. They are fans of the sport more than they are interested in personalities.

Also, most fans believe a man should lose his title in the ring, not in the commissioner's office. As we said, although 78% of the fans rated Graham "F", only 15% of the people wanted his title taken away. Again, this shows a love of the sport rather than for a single man or method of wrestling.

As might be expected, Graham had a few choice words to say after learning the poll's results. His first reaction can't be printed in this magazine. When he calmed down a little, he cleaned up his language, though not his thoughts.

"The fans have proven they're nothing but dummies!" Graham shouted. "I've seen those fools in arenas. Now I see their ballots. I hate their guts in arenas. Now I hate their ballots. Most of them wouldn't know a decent wrestler from a chicken farmer. And most of them smell worse than chicken farmers!"

"I'm the best damn champion in WWF history. I've beaten every hero those fans can find. I'll still own the title when most of these morons are pushing up stinkweed!"

"You can take the ballots and shove them up any place that's uncomfortable!" □

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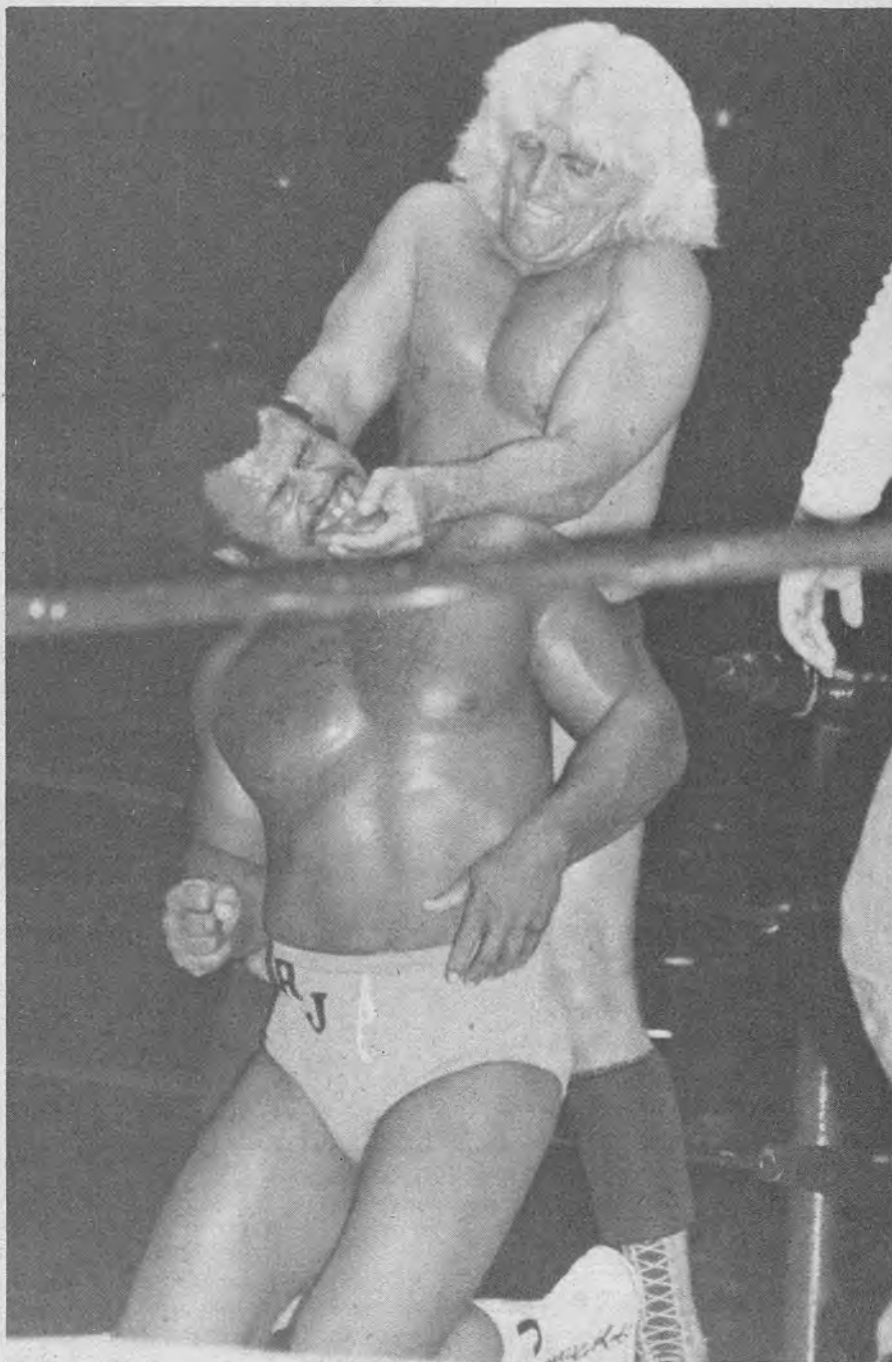


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Ric Flair

(Continued from Page 41)



Flair continues to work on Johnson's neck as the match approaches the 10 minute mark. Ric has compiled large files on Johnson and many other top wrestlers, filled with information he says will end their careers.

destroy them all. When you see what happens to Rocky Johnson, you'll know there's no hope for any of them. I wouldn't be surprised if there are mass retirements after I demolish Johnson.

"I figure it'll take 20 years before the NWA recovers. By then, I'll be a legend. People will be afraid to even

approach me. Wrestling will be Ric Flair. Ric Flair will be wrestling."

Flair even allows the press into his study. Inside, there are notebooks filled with wrestlers' names and methods of destroying them. It's an awesome file, terrifying in its implications. Any great wrestler could conceivably fall to Flair's strategies.

None of the top 10 NWA wrestlers are safe.

"Take a look at the Rocky Johnson file!" Flair instructs. "It's a work of genius, if the genius does say so himself. I've taken everything into consideration. I know more about Johnson than he does about himself."

"See this. I've discovered that Johnson puts his left foot behind his right when bracing himself for an opponent's charge. That leaves him open for a shot on the right side. He'll go down like a tenement under a wrecking ball. Most people don't notice it, because he moves the foot only an instant before contact. Only a genius could pick it up."

"Now, I've figured out three ways to hit Johnson so he'll never get up again. One of my fans is a doctor who knows all about the weak points on a man's body, especially around the knees. Do you know how easy it is to ruin a man's knees for life? I laughed for an hour when I found out!"

"A wrestler without healthy knees is not a wrestler at all. After the match, Johnson will have to find another career. Knees are only one way to end a man's career. For every wrestler in the NWA, I've found the perfect way to cripple him. By the time I'm champion, there'll be nobody left to challenge me."

"I'm smarter than any other wrestler. Most guys start worrying about defending their titles after they win the championship. I'm protecting my belt before I win it. That's genius!"

Flair proudly shows his files to anyone. He has methods of ending the careers of Paul Jones, Rick Steamboat, Dusty Rhodes, Jack Brisco, Mr. Wrestling II, and many others. These files are the scariest literature any wrestling fan can read.

"See the map?" Flair asks, pointing to his battleplan. "Next to those names, you'll soon be able to write 'retired.' I'm ready. The greatest assault on professional wrestling ever is about to begin. Isn't this a beautiful map?"

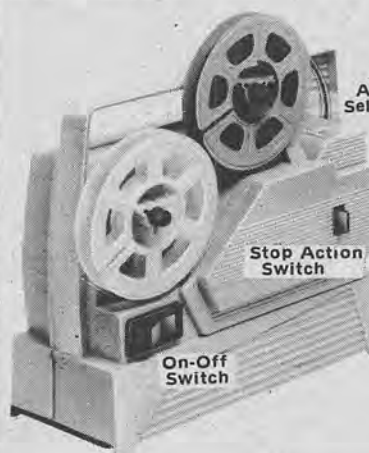
It's scary to watch Flair tenderly

(Continued on page 64)

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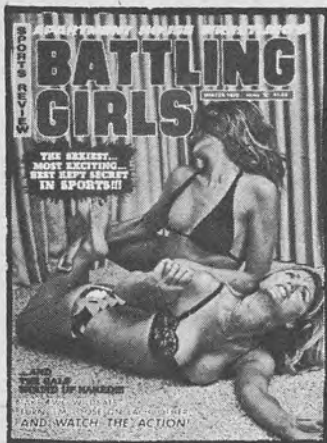
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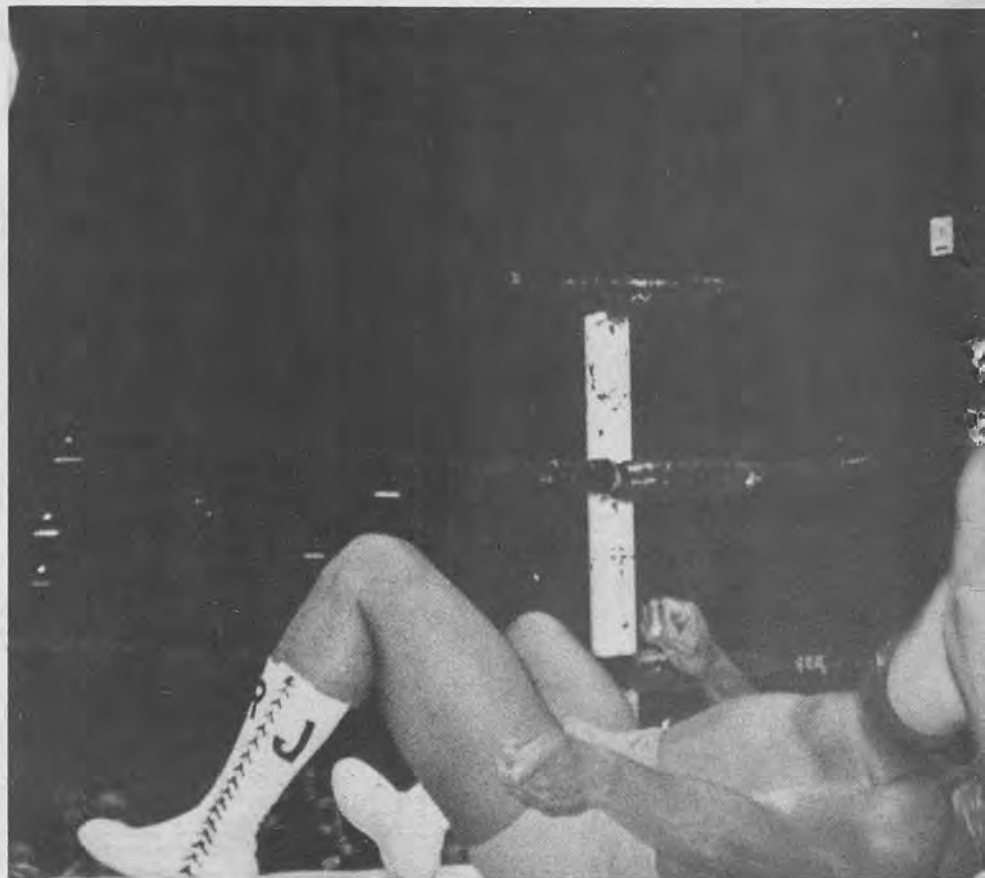
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Ric Flair

(Continued from Page 63)



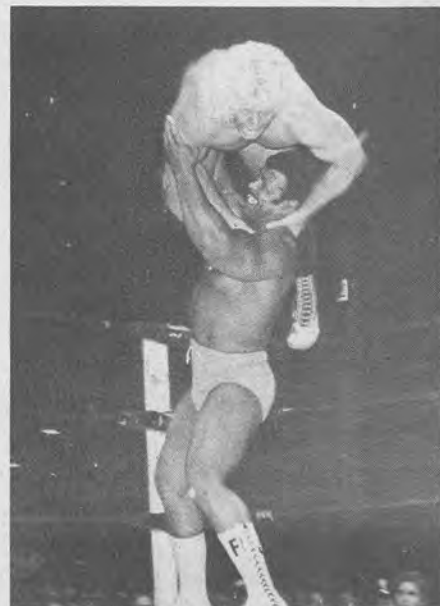
fold up the map. He delights in stroking the paper and cackling low. As he touches the map, his mind floods with visions of conquests and titles.

Flair's ego is so great, he can even respond to the obvious question, "If all the good wrestlers are gone, who'll bother to see wrestling? Isn't the reason people buy tickets to see a good, close match?"

"People will pay a fortune," Flair believes, "just to see me walk into an arena. I'm a phenomenon. My charisma will draw people from hundreds of miles around. How can anyone resist me? It doesn't matter who they get to be my opponent. People want to see me. People want Ric Flair."

The people who saw Flair take on Rocky Johnson wanted Rocky to teach Flair a painful lesson. Those aware of Flair's scheme trembled every time Ric went for Rocky's knees. Of course, there were many ways Flair devised

A kneedrop to Johnson's throat (above) stops the "Soulman" in his tracks. Ric tries a flying bodypress (below), but Rocky foils his attempt by slamming him.



to cripple Johnson. During the match, he must have tried 20 of them. All failed.



Rocky managed to hold off Flair until the time limit expired. That was an incredibly brave thing for Johnson to do. That gave Flair 30 minutes to cripple Rocky. Observers claim Flair used over 75 dangerously illegal maneuvers during the match. Fortunately, Johnson survived every one. A man smarter than he is courageous would have found some way to end the match quickly. Johnson never runs away from anyone.

After the match, reporters ran back to Flair's dressing room, asking Ric why he failed to cripple his foe. Instead of excuses, Flair dumbfounded them with claims of success.

"This was a great match for me!" he claimed. "Johnson was overwhelmed. He's set up perfectly for the next match. Now that I know how he wrestles, it'll be easy to finish him off. Johnson is doomed. They're all doomed! I'll be NWA champ for the next 20 years!" ☐

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Almost \$2,000 a week! Imagine having girls by the hundreds undressing in front of you -- and getting paid big money! Can be started in a one room office, for pennies! It's a legal, respectable money-making-venture. A dream, fun job!

Now, pardon me if I brag, but my words are worthless unless I can prove to you that I know what I am talking about!

I am a Millionaire and I have all the things associated with wealth. I live in a home valued over \$150,000.00 and I have a second vacation home on the lake (with several boats). And I drive the most expensive built car in America!

I own an apartment building, plus two office buildings, real estate, investments and I have a fortune in the bank!

Yet, for many years I was poor -- very poor. I started with less than \$50 -- and working only a few hours a day, I made over a Million dollars!! (and, I was having a 'ball' while making all this money)

Money gives me the freedom and the time to enjoy life! I do exactly what I want to do! I answer to no one. I vacation whenever and wherever I want, whether it be Las Vegas, Hawaii, Acapulco or Florida all First Class!!

Regardless where I am that money keeps rolling in! My glamorous assistants keep taking in the money. Certainly, the people who are making twenty times as much money as you are, aren't putting in twenty times as much work as you are (think about that).

Work doesn't make you Big-Money -- IT'S WHAT YOU DO THAT MAKES YOU BIG MONEY. That's how you get rich, you find 'EASY MONEY PLANS' that make you money!! Money hand-over-fist, until YOU are wealthy!!

I have opened up my files and put together a BIG BOOK, loaded with ingenious, shrewd, dynamite ways to make a lot of money!!

\$1,000.00

A WEEK!!

(yet, I do nothing)



The young lady above is showing you the money she makes for me, every week!! She does all the work - all I do is the banking! I profit up to \$1,000 weekly, year after year!

It took me several years to perfect this Money-Making-Plan - but, you can have the entire set of plans, including my valuable forms! All you have to do is clip them out of the book and take it to your printer -- and you are in business!!

This Money-Plan provides a very necessary service to businesses! You sell nothing!! You use nothing but my special forms, which you are free to duplicate. You don't have to do any work (unless you want to), you can hire a girl to do the typing and stuffing of envelopes!

Your phone book will give you all the names and addresses you need for this Money-Making-Plan. It can be started in any corner of your home -- and you can start with very little money!!

Why should I give you my valuable secrets and printed forms? Simply because it is impossible for me to cover the entire country -- millions need this valuable service. I can only tap a small part of it -- you're welcome to the rest!!

Most of these 'Easy Money Plans' require little capital (if any), and many can be done almost anywhere.

In fact, I was making over \$1,000 a week operating out of my basement (for several years), before I moved into an office!

Why not get everything you want out of life? You can still do it! If you have a job you hate and you're just getting by in life -- this book can erase your financial burden and put you on easy street for the rest of your life!

Age doesn't matter -- young or not so young, it's still easy to make money in a fun, lazy way! Education means nothing (I had a C average in high school). Background means nothing (believe me, mine was bad). If you're broke, that means nothing (I lived near poverty and started with pocket change).

Try my book out -- take a few days or up to 6 months and if you feel, for any reason that this book isn't worth 100 times what you paid for it, return it for a full fast refund! No questions asked. Just like that!

You can use this book without risking a single penny! I'll give you a 100% money-back guarantee which will completely eliminate your risk -- you would be a fool not to try this book! It's the biggest bargain ever! Why? Because for the small sum of \$10 you're going to get a Big, Fat Valuable Book (large, over 8 x 11), loaded and crammed with photo's, illustrations and Fun, Lazy Ways To Make A Lot Of Money!!

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain! If I am wrong all you have lost is a few minutes, and a postage stamp! But, if I am right -- wow -- your whole life style is going to change!!

Kurt Todd

Kurt Todd/Success International
Box 2447, Dept-V1-1
Livonia, Mich. 48151

Okay, Kurt, I accept your offer! Send me that Big, Fat Book -- 'FUN, LAZY WAYS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY'! But, it's got to make me lots of money, or I can return it for a full, fast refund! On that basis, I enclose \$10 (cash, check or money order).

☐ I'm in a big hurry, send it FIRST CLASS (Air Mail)...enclosed find an extra \$2 for postage/handling!

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Master Charge ☐

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Interbank No. _____

NAME _____

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my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

Lose "pot belly." Take a good honest look at yourself! Are you proud of your body — or are you satisfied to go through life being just "half the man" you could be? No matter how ashamed you are of your present physical condition — or how old or young you are — the "sleeping" muscles already present in your body can turn you into a REAL man! Believe me, I know — because I was once a skinny, scrawny 97-pound half-alive weakling! People used to laugh at my build and make fun of me. I was ashamed to strip for sports or the beach . . . shy of girls . . . afraid of healthy competition.

HOW I CHANGED FROM A 97 LB. WEAKLING TO A REAL MAN.

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